Spanish lawyer says he's in jail over Dante Ang case

Story on PAGE A2

Inquirer bags 5 CMMA awards

By Eline Santos and Leila Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer received five awards and one special citation from the Catholic Mass Media Awards last night.

The INQUIRER won the prestigious CMMA—distinguished by its rock-inspired trophies—for news coverage, investigative reporting, opinion writ-

INQUIRER/A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

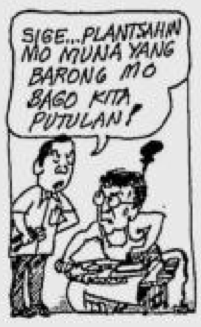
Ka Bel irons out barong

By C. Avendaño and A. Donato

HE WAS ironing his barong in his home yesterday morning when linemen from the Manila Electric Co. turned off the power supply to his house.

"I asked them if I

KA BEL/A18


SIGE...PLANTSAHIN MO MUNA YANG BARONG MO BAGO KITA PUTULAN!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Wednesday, October 23, 2002 ★★ 62 pages / 5 sections / vol. 17 / no. 317 P15
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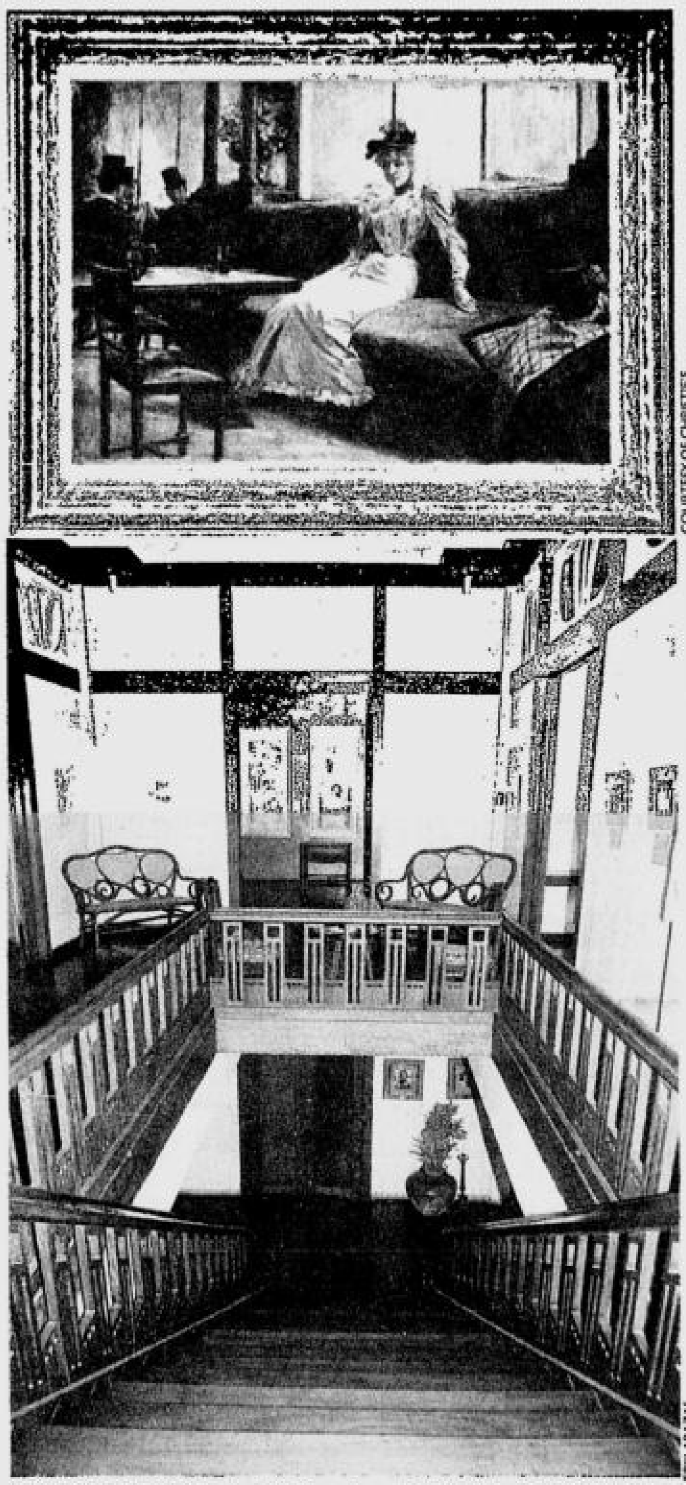
Luna owners: Stop sale



"PARISIAN LIFE" (top photo) by Juan Luna depicts spring's flirty interlude in 1892 in the lives of the artist and his good friends Jose Rizal and Dr. Ariston Bautista Lin. Bahay Nakpil Bautista (above) in Quiapo built in 1863.

COURTESY OF CHRISTIE'S

ERIK ARAZAS

SURVIVING daughters of Julio Nakpil and Gregoria de Jesus, Francisca Nakpil-de Lange (left) and Mercedes Nakpil-Zialcita.

ERIK ARAZAS

Daughters of Gregoria de Jesus claim painting

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE PRICELESS Juan Luna painting up for auction in Hong Kong on Sunday was only "borrowed" from its ancestral home, the matriarch of the Nakpil clan said yesterday.

"That painting has been with us ever since. It's like losing a member of the family," Francisca Nakpil-de Lange, 96, told the INQUIRER.

With her sister, 88-year-old Mercedes Nakpil-Zialcita, De Lange called on concerned parties to stop the sale, appealing to them not to sell "our Filipino heritage."

The 110-year-old painting, "Parisian Life," is described in the catalogue of the auction firm Christie's as "a work of art of rare intrinsic beauty," and is estimated to fetch a price of HK$1.8 million to HK$2 million (under P14 million).

Painted in Paris in 1892, the painting depicts a casual evening at a cafe (possibly Maxim's, the catalogue noted). What makes the painting even more significant, however, is that it also features the national hero Jose Rizal, Katipunan supporter Ariston Bautista Lin, and Luna himself in a scene described as a "last gathering of great Filipinos on the eve of momentous events."

The Nakpil sisters expressed shock and sadness over the impending sale.

"I was aghast why they have to sell the painting. As much as possible, we want the painting to stay in the Philippines because it is an art treasure," Zialcita said.

The story behind the painting is a veritable

LUNA/A18

Bahay Nakpil Bautista: Where 'Lunas' and historic figures lived

By PDI Research

BAHAY Nakpil Bautista played a significant role in Philippine history. It was built in 1863 by a successful physician, philanthropist and nationalist, Dr. Ariston Bautista, and his wife Petrona Nakpil.

Ariston was a noted propagandist and friend of Jose Rizal and Juan Luna. He distributed the writings of Rizal and was arrested for doing so.

Being childless, the couple invited Petrona's brothers Ramon and Julio Nakpil to live with them.

Ramon was the father of famous architect Angel Nakpil who at one time also lived there. Angel was the architect of the National Press Club, the first earthquake-proof building in the Philippines.

Julio was a pianist who composed the "Marangal na Dalit ng Katagalugan," which was commissioned by Andres Bonifacio as the battle song of the Katipunan. He served as the vice president of Bonifacio, supremo of the Katipunan.

He married Gregoria de Jesus, the young widow of Bonifacio and "lakambini" of the Katipunan. The couple was blessed with six children: Julia, Francisca, Mercedes, Caridad, Josefina and Juan Nakpil, a national artist for architecture. All were raised in Bahay Nakpil Bautista.

Located just a block away from Quezon Boulevard at 432 Bautista St. (formerly Barbosa) in Quiapo, Manila, the house was also the site of Plateria Nakpil where Manila's well-heeled, who were among Petrona's clients, came regularly. Plateria Nakpil designed outstanding gold-and-diamond pieces of jewelry so highly prized by Manila society. The jewelry pieces were handcrafted under close supervision of the artisans in the atelier within the house.

The house was designed by famous architect Arcadio Arellano, who had also supervised in 1898 the repair of the convent of the Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan, for

BAHAY/A18

Scholar links burial box found in Israel to Jesus

WASHINGTON—A burial box that was recently discovered in Israel and was dated to the first century could be the oldest archaeological link to Jesus Christ, according to a French scholar whose findings were published Monday.

An inscription in the Aramaic language—"James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus"—appears on an empty ossuary, a limestone burial box for bones.

Andre Lemaire said it was "very probable" the writing referred to Jesus of Nazareth. He dated the ossuary to 63 AD, just three decades after the crucifixion.

Lemaire, a specialist in ancient inscriptions at France's Practical School of Higher Stud-

SCHOLAR/A6

3 tons of explosive chemicals seized in Lucena

By Delfin Mallari,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—A suspicious dawn delivery of highly dangerous chemicals to the house of a suspected illegal dealer in explosives in this city was intercepted by the police yesterday. At least three tons of ammonium nitrate were seized from the residence of one Harry Valera Lim, and four suspects were arrested.

Ammonium nitrate is an agricultural chemical that can also be used to make bombs. Anywhere between 50 and 150 kg were used in the Oct. 12 Bali bombing that killed at least 190 and wounded 300. It was also a key ingredient in the bomb used in Oklahoma City in the United States in 1995, which killed 168.

Supt. Danny Ramon Siongco, Lucena police chief, said an intelligence report had tipped the police off to the movement of contraband explosives in the area.

"It now depends on the owner of the cargo to produce the necessary documents as proof that the chemicals are legally acquired and intended for legitimate uses," Siongco said.

Recovered by police were 120 25-kilo sacks of ammonium nitrate; 40 25-kilo sacks of potassium nitrate; and two drums of sodium cyanide weighing 100 kilos.

Siongco said the contraband was seized at around 5:45 a.m. while being unloaded from a Mitsubishi Canter van with Plate No. TNT-259 at Lim's house in St. Jude Village, Barangay Cotta.

Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the Southern Luzon command, said Lim had admitted that he was the source of illegal explosives in the Southern Tagalog area, but mostly for illegal fishing activities.

"But only three or four cuts per transaction were involved," Broso quoted Lim as saying.

Lim reportedly told probers that "lately there had been (a) highly irreg-

3 TONS/A18

Photo oops! Wrong Abu, PNP says sorry

By TJ Burgonio

THE CHIEF of the Philippine National Police yesterday apologized for yet another embarrassment for President Macapagal-Arroyo—the misidentification of an arrested Abu Sayyaf member as a top bandit leader and prize catch.

PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said further verification of the identity of Mark Bolkerin Gumbahale alias Dr. Abu Pula showed that he was not the top Abu Sayyaf leader listed in the military's order of battle with a P5-million prize on his head.

Ebdane said that while Gumbahale used the same alias, he "may

PHOTO/A17

Spanish lawyer claims he's in jail for case vs Dante Ang

By Blanche S. Rivera

A SPANISH lawyer has been detained by the Bureau of Immigration after he filed a complaint with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas against Dante Ang, personal publicist of President Macapagal-Arroyo, in connection with the unauthorized transfer of funds that a group of foreigners had deposited with BankWise.

Ang has bought into BankWise and is now its president.

"I am in jail because of all of this. I am threatened. They want to kill me," said Ramon Collado, president of the Philippine Retirement Authority Members Association (Prama).

Prama also filed a complaint with the National Bureau of Investigation against Ang and other BankWise officials for fraud, estafa and threats.

Collado was arrested on Oct. 14 allegedly because he was working without permit as Prama president. He has been detained at the Bureau of Immigration's jail in Bicutan, Taguig, since then.

Collado said his arrest came two weeks after Prama questioned the unauthorized transfer of its more than P16.8 million in peso and dollar accounts with BankWise to Seed Capital, which now owns the controlling stake in the bank.

In a full-page ad yesterday in the INQUIRER, BankWise disclosed that Ang wrote Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo on Monday to hold in abeyance the deportation of Collado.

Ang, a senior presidential consultant for public relations and owner of The Manila Times and Kabayan Publishing, said "Collado cannot leave and must not leave the country without substantiating his charges against him and the bank."

"If he fails to support his claims (and BankWise is convinced he would fail to do so), he faces a costly libel case. He will have to answer for

SPANISH/A17

'Anak ng kuwago!' Nonoy's gone

By Joan Orendain
Contributor

THE CARTOONIST from whose pen sprang Tisoy, Plain Folks and Ikabod, and who coined such originals in street Pinoy as "ermat" (mother) and "jeproks" (meaning from the housing projects, and in today's parlance "jologs") is gone from this tired earth.

Nonoy Marcelo was 63 (although someone who would know said he was perfect for that Beatles classic "Will you still need me/will you still feed me/when I'm 64?"). He would

ANAK/A6

BOSING, 'WAG MONG UBUSIN ANG KESO D'YAN SA LANGIT!

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern section of Luzon, Palawan, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/23/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FrontPage

CONCOCTED BY WITNESS

Kidnapping of US women a 'hoax'

THE UNITED States Embassy yesterday dismissed as a hoax the reported kidnapping of two American women and their Filipina friend in Manila over the weekend.

US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley admitted receiving a report of the alleged kidnapping of Americans Catherine Smith and Christine Scott but dismissed it as inaccurate.

"The whole story's a hoax," Kelley said in a telephone interview.

The spokesperson said that the embassy came to this conclusion after it verified the details of the alleged abduction with local authorities.

"We came upon this determination after going through the particulars of the case and they just couldn't be verified," Kelley said.

The Western Police District yesterday dismissed the alleged abduction as a mere missing persons case.

WPD director Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong said that Lhea de la Cruz, who reported the incident, faces charges of giving false information and wasting police time.

Bulaong told reporters that the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Reaction office had interrogated De la Cruz and found that she had merely concocted the story.

"The entire incident and the people involved were all invented," he told reporters in an interview.

De la Cruz, of Paliparan, Dasmariñas, Cavite, told police that her sister Diwa, a nurse, and Diwa's American friends Catherine Smith and Christine Scoths (sic) had been abducted by the latter's "policemen escorts" at the SM Manila mall.

An intelligence official said that De la Cruz admitted during investigation that she had been paid to invent the story.

She also admitted having reported that she had received a ransom demand from the kidnappers for P1 million.

The official declined to identify the person who allegedly paid De la Cruz to concoct the kidnapping story, saying the case was still under investigation.

Bulaong said the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City, where De la Cruz said her sister and the Americans were staying, had denied the victims were their guests.

But immigration sources told the INQUIRER said that a Catherine Smith and a Christine Scott did arrive from the US in September. They were still in the country, they said.

"Their address in the Philippines is usually given in their immigration cards but we can't verify that immediately in our database," the sources said. *Norman Bordadora, Jerome Aning and TJ Burgonio*

'Nothing we can do'

"THERE'S nothing much we can do."

Thus, Sen. Joker Arroyo reacted to advisories issued by the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom warning their nationals against travel to some parts of the Philippines.

But other senators said the Department of Foreign Affairs should work harder at having the advisories lifted. Sen. Manny Villar urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to speed up efforts to solve the peace and order problem.

Serge Osmeña sees higher PPA rates

By Rocky Nazareno

CONSUMERS of electricity will have to pay an extra P8 billion in purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges under the build-rehabilitate-operate-transfer (BROT) contract the National Power Corp. and the National Transmission Co. signed with the Argentine firm IMPSA.

In a privileged speech, opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III charged that the contract to rehabilitate and expand the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) hydroelectric complex in Laguna was tainted by a "series of scams" perpetrated by a "clique (which) is responsible for a substantial portion of the PPA charges being paid by the Filipino people."

He identified the members of the "clique" as Napocor president Rolando Quilala, Transco president Asisclo Gonzaga, Napocor corporate secretary Alberto Pancog and CBK project manager Marcelino Abesamis.

Osmeña said that because of the "scams" in the CBK project, "the levelized cost for (CBK) power has been effectively increased from 65 centavos to 81 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

"That 16-centavo increase per kwh translates to P8 billion in overcharges throughout the life of the CBK BROT contract," he said.

Osmeña has asked the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises to investigate the BROT contract with IMPSA.

He said the "scams" started in September 1999 when then Napocor president Frederico Puno signed a supplemental agreement with IMPSA, even before the mother contract for the IMPSA project was approved.

Osmeña said the supplemental agreement, which provided for the early rehabilitation of the CBK's Kalayaan 1 plant, was not justified because Napocor engineers had said the "plant was far from being in a precarious condition."

Also, Osmeña said, the rehabilitation of Kalayaan 1 was approved in September 1999 when the work was scheduled for 2004.

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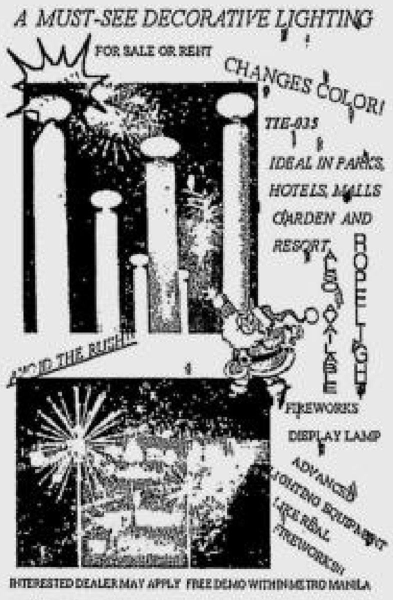

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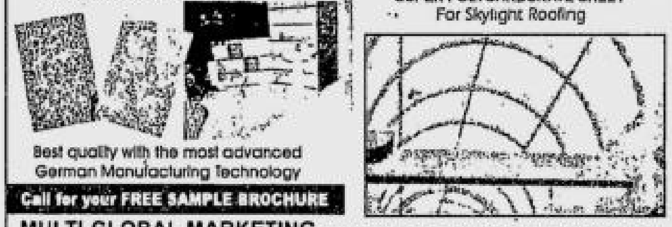

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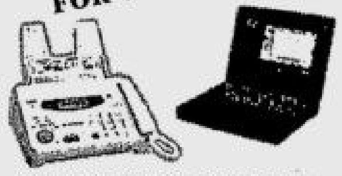

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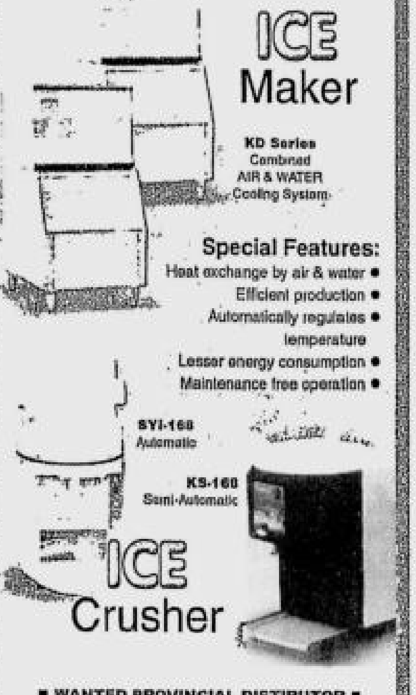

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Congress approves absentee voting bill on final reading

By Juliet Javellana and Cynthia Balana

THE HOUSE and Senate have approved on final reading vastly differing versions of an absentee voting bill, landmark legislation that will will allow Filipinos residing overseas to vote for the first time in Philippine elections.

Depending on the results of a bicameral conference to reconcile the two versions, the overseas vote will empower an estimated four to 7.5 million Filipinos overseas.

'Perfect gift'

"This bill is a perfect gift (to the millions of Filipinos around the world) and is the least we can offer to reciprocate their sacrifices and heroism in helping shore up the country's economy during times of crisis," Speaker Jose de Venecia said.

"We made history today. It is a second wind for Philippine politics," crowed opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara who the principal author of the Senate bill.

House Bill 3570 was approved by a vote of 132 to 9 on Monday night. Those who voted against the landmark measure, expected to take effect in 2004, cited the lack of safeguards to prevent fraud.

The Senate passed its version yesterday, with 17 voting for, one against and one abstaining.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo was the lone "no" vote while Sen. Ralph Recto abstained because he wanted the privilege to be exercised also in local elections. The Senate version allows overseas Filipinos to vote for president, vice president, senators and party-list representatives.

In explaining his vote, Arroyo said the passage of the bill was done hastily.

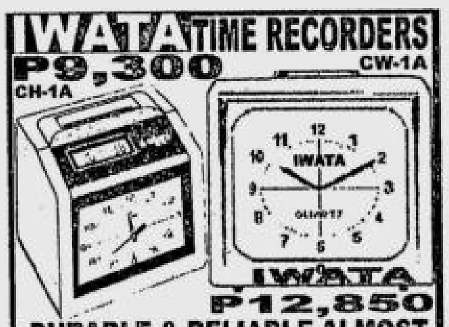
He said the proposed law would allow "faceless" voters to vote without coming to the Philippines to personally register as provided for under the Constitution.

Arroyo also insisted that there was no means to verify the correct identity and existence of the absentee voter.

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. has described the House bill as the "intelligent version" while Arroyo said the Senate version was a "disaster waiting to happen."

Under the House bill, qualified Filipinos abroad can vote for president and vice president and in plebiscites.

Those qualified to vote are overseas Filipinos who have not renounced Filipino citizenship.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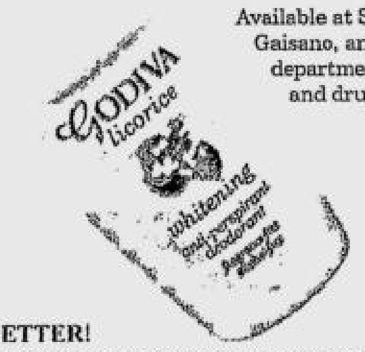
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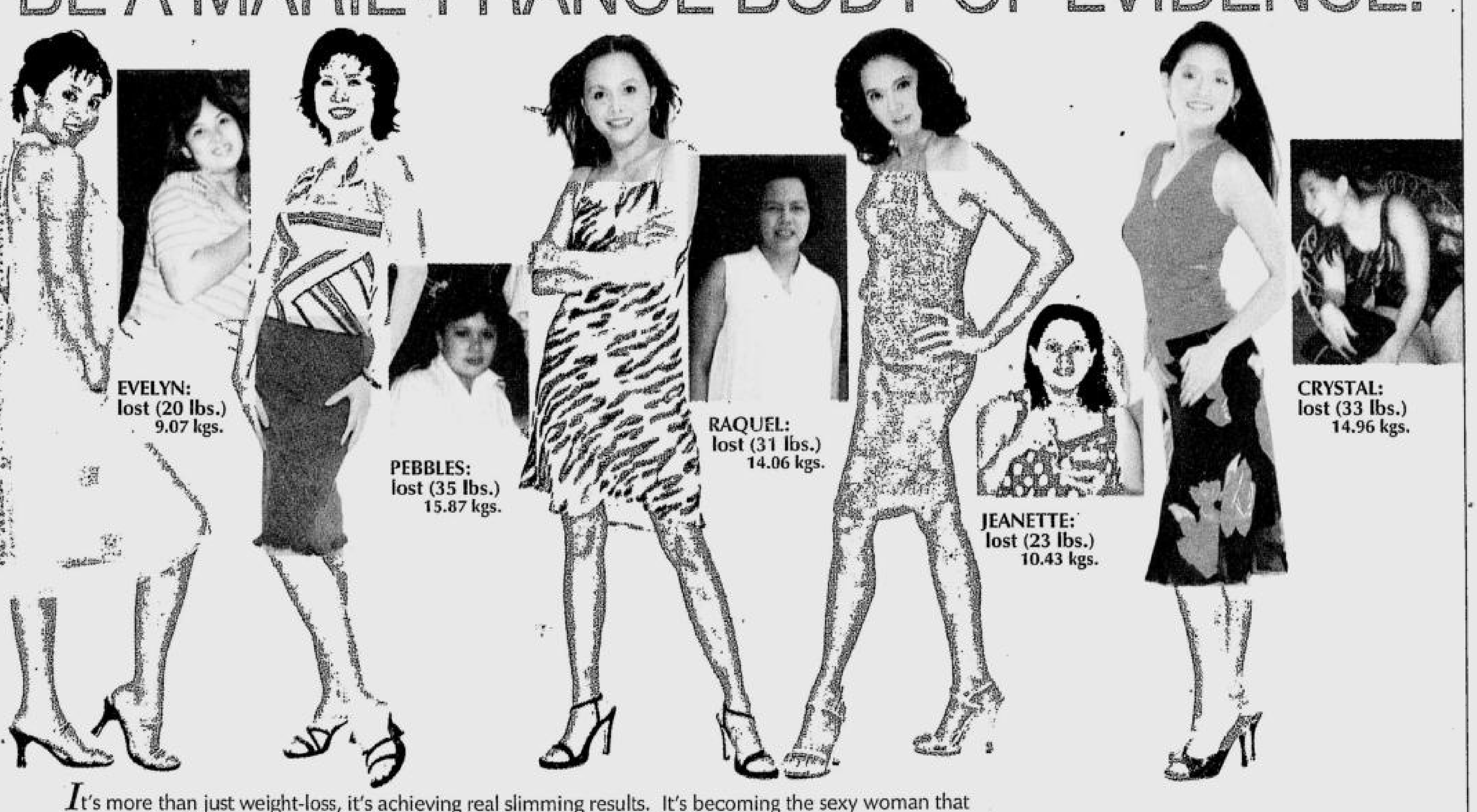
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PLDT killing Internet firms, says solon

ONCE a monopoly in the telecommunications industry, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is now trying to build a monopoly in cyberspace.

This was the gist of a privilege speech delivered Monday by Rep. Junie Cua, who accused the telecommunications giant of trying to kill Internet service providers (ISPs) so its own ISP subsidiary, myDSL, could dominate the market and create a monopoly in the industry.

PLDT, Cua said, is doing this through discriminatory and predatory business practices meant to "systematically and methodically" driving the competition to the ground. He warned that a monopoly would, in the long run, result in high prices and poor service, as in the days when PLDT itself was a monopoly in the telecommunications industry.

He urged the House of Representatives to conduct an investigation into the matter.

With discriminatory and predatory pricing that threatened the viability of the service providers, PLDT was violating the Philippine Telecommunications Act of 1995 (RA7925) and the Revised Penal Code, Cua said.

The act was passed by the 9th Congress in 1995 to dismantle the giant PLDT monopoly as the key to the development of the telecommunications industry. It has been credited with the phenomenal growth of the telecommunications industry in recent years.

Cua accused PLDT of subsidizing its value added service (VAS) offerings from its mainline utility operations and offering these services at prices that can only be described as predatory.

He cited the broadband service provided by PLDT's myDSL as a classic example of how the telecommunications giant can effectively decimate the independent ISP industry.

He said that last year, PLDT launched its broadband service with an aggressive and expansive marketing campaign that offered myDSL's always-on connection at a price of only P2,500 a month.

The ISPs, on the other hand, have to pay PLDT at least P2,700 a month for each dial-up subscriber and an average of P1,000 for the internet connection or bandwidth allocated for each dial-up subscriber. That, Cua said, makes up a total of P3,700 a month for each dial up line that they maintain to provide Internet services. This, he said, does not even include other capital expenditures, operating costs and other expenses the ISPs incur to provide service.

He said PLDT was violating the law by refusing to offer the independent ISPs the same rates and access to their facilities and to maintain a level playing field in the industry.

Palace: Resign call no censure of PEA

By Carlito Pablo

THE BOARD members of the scandal-plagued Public Estates Authority were asked to resign to ensure the credibility of the investigation into the alleged overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. and not because they were being accused of a cover-up, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye clarified yesterday.

"The President really wants an investigation that is aboveboard and to ensure this, she asked the members of the board to tender their resignations," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said over state-owned dzRB radio.

He said the move was meant to erase any doubts that the administration was protecting anyone, or that the PEA board members would use their power to influence the investigation.

Bunye said Malacañang was not accusing the board members of trying to cover up the alleged P600-million overprice of the PDMB at the Manila Bay reclamation area.

In a press statement yesterday, PEA board member Rodolfo Tuazon said he was willing to resign to give the President a free hand in getting to the "bottom of the controversy."

"We are certain she will find out that there was actually no anomaly or overprice involved in the construction of the boulevard which serves fully and well the needs of thousands of commuters who pass by it daily," the statement said.

Tuazon, who disclaimed any involvement in the alleged scam because he was appointed after the inauguration of the road project, said it might be unfair to ask the board members to resign "with a cloud hanging over their heads."

The anti-corruption watchdog Plunder Watch yesterday accused Ms Macapagal of trying to wash her hands of the PDMB scam by asking the PEA board to resign.

Plunder Watch spokesperson F. Joe Dizon said that instead of being asked to resign, the PEA officials should instead be meted a "preventive suspension" to ensure that the truth would come out."

"The President's action looks like a mere slap on the wrist," he said.

The President called for the resignation of the PEA board last Monday amid observations that corruption was eroding public confidence in her leadership.

PEA director Sulficio Tagud Jr., who blew the whistle on the alleged scam, has offered to go on leave. *With a report from Agnes E. Donato*

Cebu road costs twice as much as DM Blvd

By Rocky Nazareno

THE SENATE blue ribbon committee is "in a quandary" over how to assess the alleged overprice of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard which it is investigating after receiving the figures for the Cebu South Coastal Road porject which is being constructed at a cost almost twice that of the controversial PDMB.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said that based on the figures that they were studying, the cost per square meter of the PDMB was P11,563.24 while that of CSCR was P22,121.64.

CSCR is a 4.586-km, six-lane road that will link Cebu City to Talisay City, opening a vital gateway to the south of Cebu province.

The total contract cost for CSCR is P2.095 billion compared to P837.317 million for the 2.586 km-long, eight-lane PDMB.

On a per-kilometer, per-lane basis, the cost of PDMB is P40.473 million while that of the CSCR is P71.908 million.

While the PDMB was undertaken by a Filipino contractor, JDLC, for the Public Estates Authority, the CSCR is an undertaking of the national government using official development assistance from Japan.

The main contractor for the CSCR is the Japanese-based TOA Corp.

Arroyo said the committee was in a real quandary over what recommendations to make in its investigation into the alleged PDMB scam.

He said the committee would have to consider the CSCR figures in its report.

Arroyo also underscored the transparency of the Cebu project because "(CSCR) is a construction by a Japanese contractor."

"This gives substance to the statement that no two construction projects can be accurately compared (with each other) because of such things as soil composition," Arroyo said.

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UM SINCE 1913

Palace wants more powers for cops, AFP

By D. Z. Pazzibugan

INSTEAD of emergency powers for itself, Malacañang wants greater powers for the police and the military to go after terrorists.

Press Undersecretary Bobby Capco said the President does not need extra powers to deal with the situation. What she wants is for Congress to pass an Anti-Terrorism Law.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier rejected the proposal by Rep. Raul Gonzalez, the House deputy speaker, that she be given emergency powers to cope with the wave of deadly bomb attacks in Mindanao and Metro Manila.

Penalties

"We don't find (giving the President emergency powers) totally unacceptable," Capco said in an interview over dzAR yesterday, "but we're saying that we can root out terrorism by boosting the investigative powers of our law enforcement agencies and by imposing harsher penalties on (terrorists)."

In the House, the anti-terrorism bill authored by Cebu Rep. Joseph Duranes, is on its first reading in the committee on justice.

The bill defines terrorist activities and metes out harsh penalties to individuals and groups who are declared as terrorists.

In the Senate, Senators Robert Barbers and Panfilo Lacson filed separate anti-terrorism bills that have yet to be consolidated.

Capco also took exception to accusations by militant groups that Malacañang was behind the bombings to force Congress to pass the anti-terrorism bill and increase the intelligence funds of the military and the police.

Instead of a state of emergency, Malacañang is allowing city mayors to declare a state of calamity in their respective areas to allow them to use their calamity funds to buy anti-terrorism equipment.

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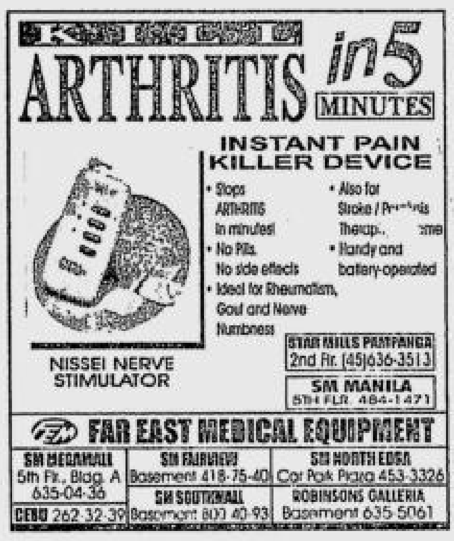

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'Anak ng kuwago!' Nonoy Marcelo is gone

From page A1

have reacted to his own death thus: "Anak ng kuwago!"

The man born Severino Santos Marcelo—"Yikes!" can you just hear him saying?—was perpetually grappling with a problem that was vexing for him but was invariably a source of mirth for his friends.

His buddies would rush to the then Daily Mirror to see what the latest crisis was about after hearing unintelligible sounds emanating from him over the phone. And the life-and-death situation would turn out to be this: The cartoonist was stuck for a fresh idea.

Imagine him sitting on a three-legged wooden stool at the drawing board, decked out in skin-tight black leather pants and black leather jacket. But this supposedly sexy Hell's Angels look would be all for naught because a half-gnawed chicken leg would be sticking out of his right pants' pocket and his left hand would be clutching a pen poised in mid-air.

Alejandro (Anding) Roces was the model for Tisoy, Bibsy Carballo for Maribubut, and this writer (50 pounds ago) for Aling Otik. The poet Florentino Dauz was the pipsqueak Caligula, and Gemmo was Gemma Cruz, who had then just won the Miss International crown.

Pure adventure

When in exile in the United States, Nonoy begat the *mestizo Americano* Rajah Mozart, and Aling Otik, by then having metamorphosed into one of the Madama's Metro Manila Aides, suddenly had a grandson. But Quincy, whom she called Kinse, was black and had a frizz in a way that only Nonoy's ultra-fertile imagination could have created.

What a time we had.

Baon money expended on cigarettes, Nonoy and the future Caligula, Aling Otik and one or two others would forage for food, more often than not in Funeraria Paz on Azcarraga, today's Claro M. Recto.

In the 1960s food in funeral parlors was to be found only at very wealthy Chinese wakes. Nonoy's instructions were to walk in together, head straight for the bier, pray in earnest for our host—for one strange reason or another, always male—then head to the back pew where flowed largesse for the hungry.

Sometimes there was a pack of cigarettes apiece for us on the way out, with no one the wiser for having fed scavengers.

Such was Nonoy's genius that he treated life as pure adventure, and in the end, as art.

If you told him you were from Malabon on such-and-such street, the small-town boy in him would say "Oh, beside Aling Liling *na mangkukulot* (who curled hair)?"

He himself lived on Marcelo Street, named after his father, a World War II hero. Ermat was Rita, an English teacher at the Far Eastern University.

It was at FEU and the school paper The Advocate where Nonoy got his grounding as a cartoonist.

The lady-love editors for whom he drew and composed layout were Sheila Coronel and the "I" magazine of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, and Eugenia Apostol and the Pinoy Times tabloid, which exposed Joseph Estrada's homes and paramours, but folded in December last year.

Nonoy joined the reincarnated Manila Times recently, painting the Sunday magazine covers, and writing and editing that paper's four-page Monday pullout section, Pytyk.

Well-read and an authority on Philippine history, he it was who revealed to friends the art of *letras y figuras* decades ago, before it came to Filipino consciousness.

Generosity

That Nonoy ended up owning a Bliss condominium in Diliman, Quezon City, came as a pleasant surprise to all who knew him.

The trouble with him was that he had the habit of being overly generous, leaving nothing much for himself. From the Los Indios Bravos nights where all were treated to food and drink when he had the wherewithal, to the Tisoy television series with Bert "Tawa" Marcelo as Eutiquio, to those days when he earned hefty sums from putting together a series of comic books, "Da Real Macoy" about Ferdinand Marcos, many partook of his good fortune.

Never quite living down what he perceived to be opprobrium for the Macoy propaganda, when people who knew where his heart lay simply said, "Well, that's Nonoy for you," he went anti-Marcos with a vengeance.

His highest accolade—the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Centennial Honors for the Arts Award in 1999—vindicated him.

It read: "Marcelo's works merge political issues with popular forms in drawing a commentary on Filipino society, especially during a period of heightened state oppression.

"Because his cartoons represent the temper of the times, chronicling the national experience especially under the dictatorship, the Parangal Sentenyal sa Sining at Kultura is hereby conferred on this 2nd day of February 1999 on Nonoy Santos Marcelo."

Passages

Nonoy was married to Mila Mercado, with whom he had three children.

The eldest child, Dario, was present when the father passed on at 10 a.m. yesterday at the Chinese General Hospital.

It was a life lived to the fullest, and Nonoy suffered from complications of diabetes and heart, liver and prostate problems.

His remains are lying in state at the Funeraria Floresco on 219 General Luna St. in his native Malabon. Cremation is scheduled on Friday at the Eternal Gardens.

Scholar . . .

From page A1

ies, published his findings in the November/December issue of Biblical Archaeology Review.

The Rev. Joseph Fitzmyer, a Bible professor at Catholic University who studied photos of the box, agreed with Lemaire that the writing style "fits perfectly" with other first century examples.

The joint appearance of these three famous names is "striking," he said.

"But the big problem is, you have to show me the Jesus in this text is Jesus of Nazareth, and nobody can show that," Fitzmyer said.

According to Lemaire, the distinct writing style and the fact that Jews practiced ossuary burials only between 20 BC and 70 AD put the inscription squarely at the time of Jesus and James, who led the early church in Jerusalem.

All three names were commonplace, but Lemaire estimated only 20 Jameses in Jerusalem during that era would have had a father named Joseph and a brother named Jesus.

Moreover, naming the brother as well as the father on an ossuary was "very unusual," Lemaire wrote. There's only one other known example in Aramaic.

Thus, this particular Jesus must have had some unusual role or fame—and Jesus of Nazareth certainly qualified, Lemaire concluded.

However, Kyle McCarter, a Johns Hopkins University archaeologist, said it was possible the brother was named because he conducted the burial or owned the tomb.

The archaeology magazine said two Israeli government scientists conducted a detailed microscopic examination of the surface and the inscription, reporting last month that nothing undercut first century authenticity.

Claim assailed

Lemaire's claim was attacked by Robert Eisenman of California State University, Long Beach, who unlike most scholars believed that "Jesus' existence is a very shaky thing." Highly skeptical about New Testament history, Eisenman considered the new discovery "just too pat. It's just too perfect."

Virtually all that is known about Jesus comes from the New Testament. No physical artifact from the first century related to him has been discovered and verified.

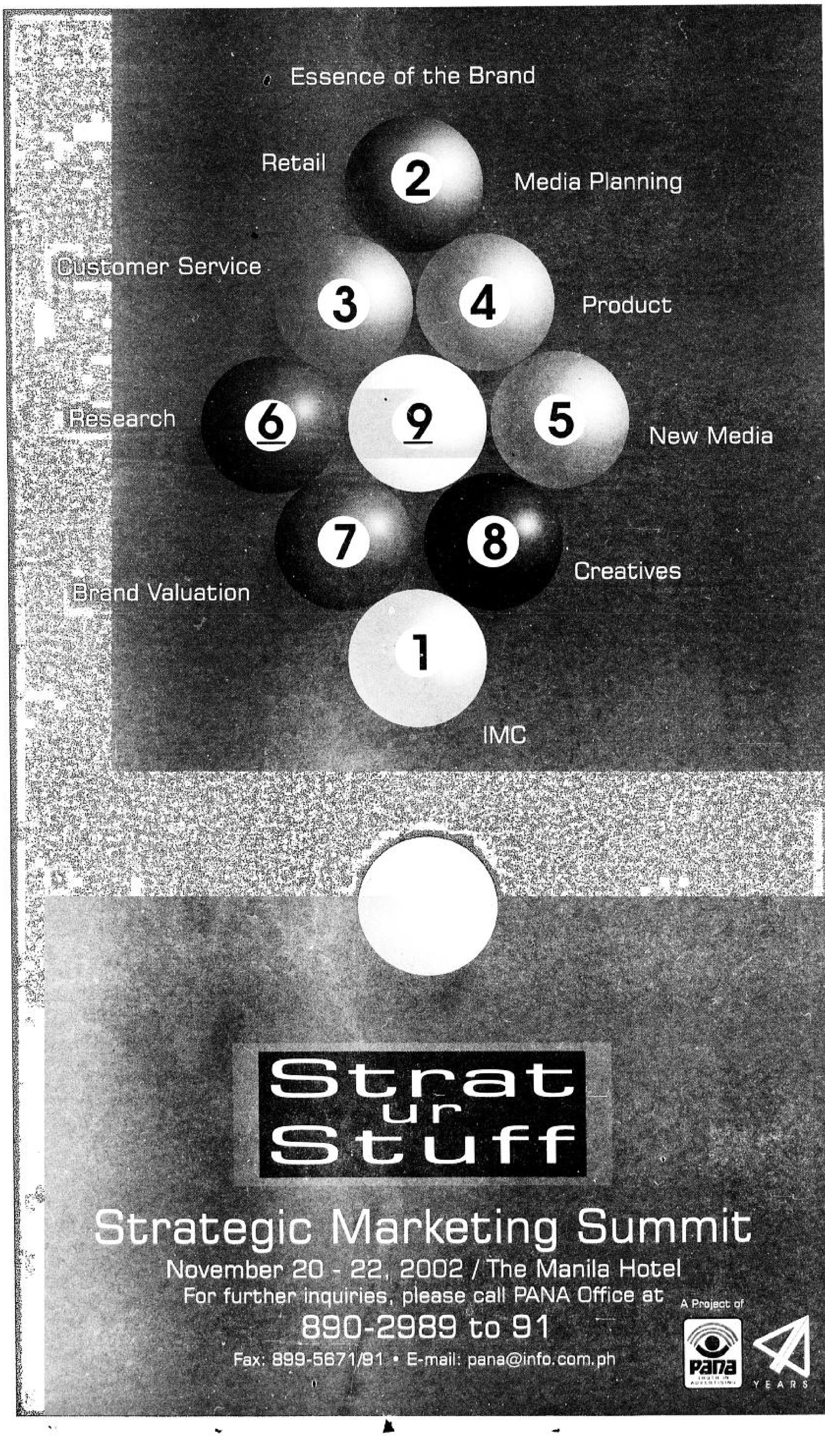
James is depicted as Jesus' brother in the Gospels and head of the Jerusalem church in the Book of Acts and Paul's Epistles.

The first century Jewish historian Josephus recorded that "the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ, James by name," was stoned to death as a Jewish heretic in 62 AD.

If his bones were placed in an ossuary, the inscription would have occurred the following year, around 63 AD.

Until now, the oldest surviving artifact that mentions Jesus is a fragment of Chapter 18 in John's Gospel from a manuscript dated around 125 AD. It was discovered in Egypt in 1920.

There are numerous surviving manuscripts of New Testament portions from later in that century. Jesus was mentioned by three pagan authors in Rome in the early second century and by Josephus in the late first century. *AP*



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Pinoys to lose US airport jobs

By Percy D. Della

SACRAMENTO, California—When President Macapagal Arroyo arrives in the Bay Area following the Apec summit in Mexico this month, chances are her jet-lagged entourage will be deprived of a welcome sight and a reassuring presence—Filipino security screeners at San Francisco International Airport.

In the name of national security, non-US citizens among the Filipino screeners will lose their jobs unless they pledge allegiance to Uncle Sam by Nov. 18.

The aviation and security act that Congress passed and President Bush signed following the Sept. 11 attacks require that non-US citizens be replaced with federalized US workers by that date.

The law already has cost about 250 lost jobs mostly held by Filipinos at San Jose International Airport. Another 100, also mostly immigrants from the Philippines, are expected to be dismissed at Oakland Airport before month's end. Still another 1,000 screeners will be let go at San Francisco International before the federal deadline.

The job losses translate to thousands of dollars lost in remittances to screeners' relatives in the Philippines.

Non-immigrant screeners are being made scapegoats for 9-11, according to groups supporting the affected workers.

"It's a racist excuse and there's no justification for it," Kuusela Hilo, a Filipino student activist at Stanford University said recently.

"The government has to blame someone," writes bombastic columnist Emil Guillermo in his column for the weekly Philippine News.

Filipino screeners are not too keen about obtaining citizenship because of fears that it would limit their ability to own real estate and other property in their homeland. They are also hesitant to start a new paper trail that could complicate pending immigrant petitions for their kin in the Philippines.

The few who are already citizens are intrigued by the promise of federal employment. But they had to hurdle very rigid TSA tests to retain their jobs

"The test is designed to weed out immigrant workers. They (TSA) were looking for white males with police and military backgrounds," Kawal Ulanday, a Filipino labor activist in Oakland told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Among those eligible to aspire for the federal position is Anthony Calmerin, the 19-year old US-born screener. Calmerin became a folk hero of sorts among Filipinos in Northern California for standing up to Philippine Senate President Franklin Drillon Jr.

Last September, Drilon waived off protocols for departing dignitaries at SFO and decided to go through airport security gates like an ordinary passenger.

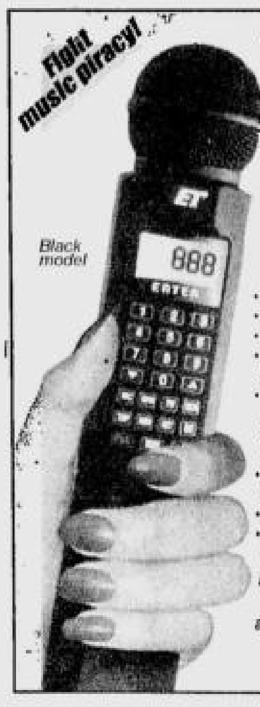
Calmerin asked the Philippine official to remove his shoes during a random security test in the name of public safety. The incident sparked Drilon to wag his diplomatic passport and bang his shoe in anger.

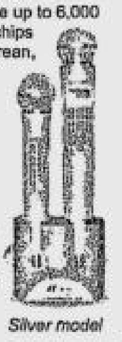
GMA cuts trip short

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will cut short her eight-day trip to Mexico and California in the US by at least a day according to reporters covering her trip.

The trip was originally set from Oct. 24 to 31.She will be back on Oct. 30.

Her main agenda is the Apec Summit in Mexico from Oct. 25 to 28.





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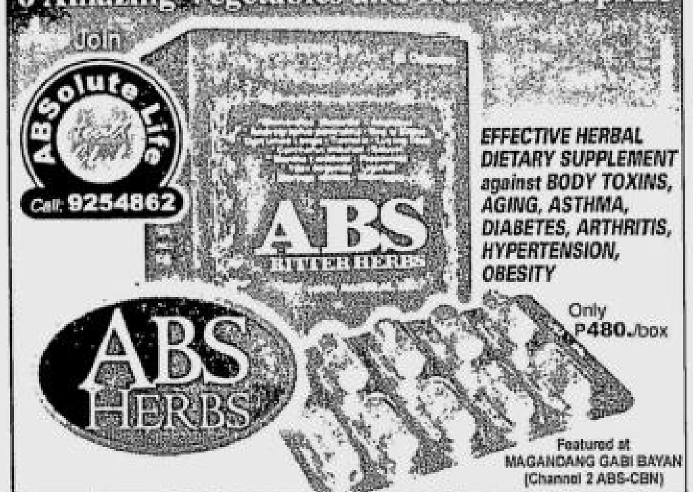

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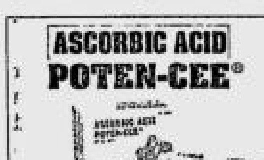

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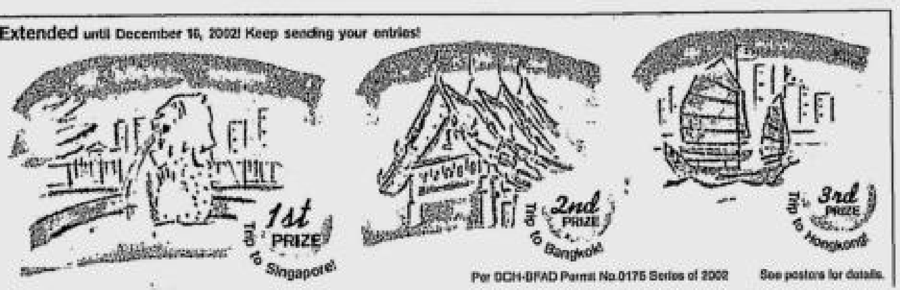
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OPINION

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Hall of Shame

EDITORIAL

IF there were such a thing as a Hall of Shame for the most corrupt countries, the Philippines would surely be among the leading candidates. In the latest ratings done by Transparency International, the Philippines was ranked as the 11th most corrupt among the 102 countries surveyed this year, with a corruption perception index of 2.6, using a scale of 0 to 10 from the most to the least corrupt. Because there were ties, the country was actually placed at No. 77 this year, an "improvement" on its No. 65 placing in 2001. At the rate it has been going, it should have no problem placing among the "top" 10 in notoriety the next time around.

Transparency International said its ratings were based on at least three surveys conducted among businessmen and risk analysts. Meaning these surveys recorded the impressions of people who dealt mainly with the government agencies regulating businesses like the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Trade and Industry and the business licensing arms of various local government units. If the survey were to cover a cross section of the population, the results would probably be worse. For as Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew once said, corruption in this country is not just a fact of life, it has already become a way of life.

The evidence is everywhere. Hardly a month passes when no scam is uncovered or exposed through the media. In the last few months alone, the Filipino people learned about the anomalous power plant deals that sent electric rates soaring, the questionable provisions of the Naia Terminal 3 contract, the P150-million vehicle repair jobs at the Department of Public Works and Highways and the most expensive road project ever, called the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard at the Manila Bay reclamation area. Scratch the surface of almost any government project, from roads and bridges to dams and power plants, and you are apt to find substandard materials or gross overpricing.

Graft and corruption has become so pervasive no one is shocked anymore when, for example, a police officer tools around in an expensive SUV even if his entire monthly salary cannot cover the amortization for such a fancy vehicle. In fact, everyone simply winks when a congressman or mayor who spent millions to get elected soon builds for himself a fabulous mansion.

Such indifference is not limited to those who think they are powerless. Even those who have the power and the obligation to stop such practices do so almost half-heartedly. Of course, there is the high-profile trial of disgraced former President Joseph Estrada for plunder, but other than that there seems to be no serious effort to really go after big-time grafters in government. Neither has there been any effort to plug even the most obvious sources of graft like the yearly pork barrel allocations of senators and congressmen.

These corrupt practices are costing the people plenty. One senator has estimated that as much as 60 percent of the mutibillion-peso congressional pork-barrel funds are wasted on kickbacks and payoffs to legislators, government engineers, auditors and other officials. Around P20 billion of the national government's annual allocation for the procurement of supplies and equipment is lost to graft, according to the chair of the appropriations committee, Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr.

A serious cleanup will demand a great amount of political will on the part of the national leadership. But there is no sign that the administration even considers graft and corruption to be a serious problem. Perhaps it will start moving only when we edge out Bangladesh for the shameful distinction of being the world's most corrupt nation.

Endless war

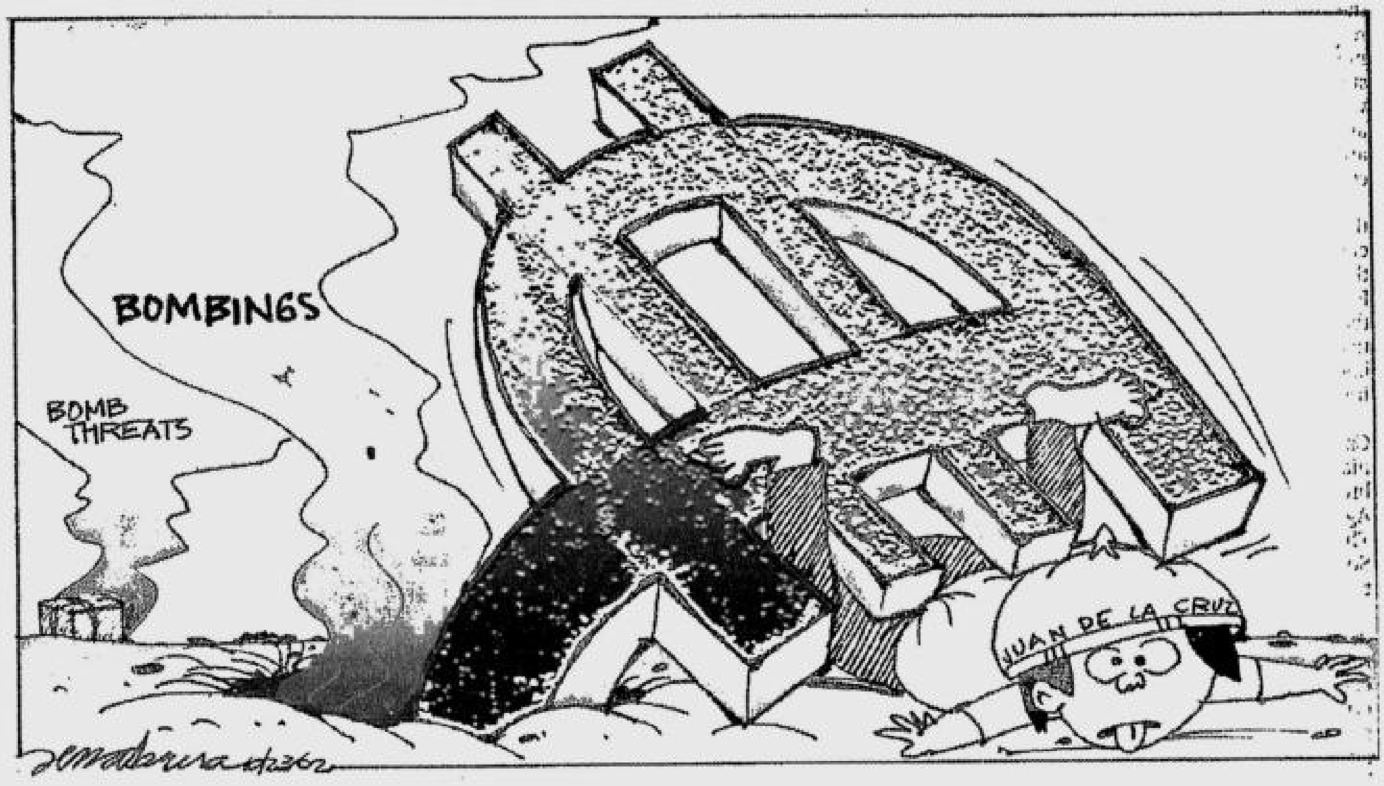
FOREIGN COMMENT

TERORISM is not a conventional foe. It respects no borders, no religion, no class, no creed, no color. Its armies dwell in the shadows, breaking cover only to hit a target and run. It is a modern scourge that simply cannot be dealt with by brute force alone. Cut off one of its heads and, like the hydra, two more shoot up in its place.

Steaming into Iraq, Iran, North Korea, or any other rogue nation will perpetuate anti-western feeling and supply fresh recruits for the terrorist cause. In short, the strategy to secure global peace being advanced by the US and Britain in fact raises the specter of endless war. Geographically, such a war would be impossible to prosecute. Economically, it would be disastrous. Morally, it would be little short of repugnant. ...

Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair appear sincere in their desire to make the world a safer place, yet the way they intend to achieve this looks set to have the opposite effect. In their war, there can be no real winners, only losers to greater or lesser degrees.

The Herald (Glasgow, Scotland)



The Prama deposits: Curiouser and curiouser

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

"THIS is getting curiouser and curiouser." That, in the words of Alice in Wonderland, is what is happening in the conflict between the Prama Foundation, the association of foreign retirees living here, and the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA) and one of their depository banks. During the last few days, I interviewed some principal characters in the controversy, and although they were all arrayed against a common enemy, the Prama Foundation and its president, retired Spanish lawyer Ramon M. Collado—now detained at the Bicutan detention center of the Bureau of Immigration—they did not have flattering words about one another and have, in fact, contradictory statements.

They were, as stated in yesterday's column, PLRA chair Tony Leviste, officer in charge Erlinda P. Lozada and Jun Marcelo PRA, assistant for special projects, the gentleman who allegedly made 16 cash advances totaling P2,420,000 from two Prama accounts in Bankwise. Monday afternoon, I talked with Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, suspended PRA general manager and CEO Vernette Umali-Paco and, in the evening, with Dante Ang himself, chair of Bankwise and in Ang's own words, the "private personal publicist" of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

At a dinner with six journalists, Ang gave us copies of his letter to Immigration Commissioner Domingo which tried to explain the "alleged...unauthorized withdrawals and unauthorized crediting of the Prama account in favor of Seed Capital," the group which, with the help of Ang, bought controlling interest in Bankwise.

"Bank records would show," said Ang in his letter, "that it was Ms Rica P. Mipana, Prama finance officer, noted by Mr. Collado, president and CEO of Prama, who wrote Bankwise on July 17, 2002, asking the Bank to credit his deposit in favor of Seed Capital. Another letter on Aug. 12, 2002, again signed by Ms Mipana, was sent to the bank asking that a total of P2 million be withdrawn from his investment through Seed Capital."

Copies of the two Mipana letters were also given us. At first glance, this would seem to explain the complaint of Collado to the Bangko Sentral that Bankwise "transferred our money from the Peso and Dollar savings account to the Seed Capital (account) without our authorization or any documentation."

These were also the content of the full-page newspaper advertisements bought by Bankwise last Tuesday. I asked several fellow journalists if they noticed anything peculiar with the contents of the advertisement and they did not.

But a close scrutiny would show that the letter of Ang and the two letters of Mipana intended to support Ang's claim, do not tally. In fact, as I see it, they are contradictory.

"Ms Mipana...wrote Bankwise...asking the Bank to credit his (Prama's) deposit in favor of Seed Capital," said Ang's letter.

However, Mipana's July 17, 2002 letter to Bankwise said:

"Attention Ms Aurora A. Cruz
Assistant Vice President

"Subject: Termination of Placements in Dollar/Peso Seed Capital.

"Dear Ms Cruz,

"This refers to our US dollar placements which was booked for one year (Jan. 18, 2001) under Seed Capital. Kindly credit the amount of Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (US$280,000 to our dollar account ———) including the interest for the month of July 2002.

"Furthermore, please credit our Peso Deposits under Seed Capital including accrued interest earned which was booked on May 25, 2001 to the following accounts:

"Prama SA __________ Php 2,770,844.67 (2 accounts)

"Civil Society SA (open) 1,207,077.13

"After crediting our accounts to savings deposit we will settle all cash advances made as per our records..."

The Aug. 12, 2002 letter to Mr. Vicente Campa, Bankwise director, said:

"Recognizing your very busy schedule, we are sending you this notice to follow up our letter dated July 17, 2002 regarding Termination of Placements in dollar/peso Seed Capital..."

In short, Mipana's letters speak of "termination" of the Seed Capital placement and crediting the money to two other accounts, Prama SA and Civil Society SA. On the other hand, Ang's letter to Domingo and in the advertisement, speaks of "crediting" the deposit in favor of Seed Capital. They are contradictory. I may be wrong but as I see it, Mipana wants the retirees' money "taken out" of the Seed Capital account, but Ang interprets this as "putting it" into the Seed Capital account. One is saying "goodbye"; the other is saying "hello."

I pointed out this apparent contradiction to Ang during our dinner and, after trying to explain it and failing, he said "Well, I may have been wrong."

Then he called up an official of the bank and asked for an explanation. They talked for a while, then he handed the phone to me. I repeated the question to the man on the other end of the line and he tried to explain but I still couldn't make sense out of it.

Am I wrong or am I right? Are the letters contradictory? Was withdrawing the deposits from other Prama accounts and crediting them to the account of Seed Capital—which practically owns Bankwise—the intent of Mipana's two letters? She and the Prama Foundation should enlighten us.

And some government agency—like the Bangko Sentral or the Senate committee on banks—should investigate this affair to assuage the fears of depositors and the banking community. *(To be continued)*

Postscript: A night of magic

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE INVITATION said dark suit for men, and I had no problems submitting to it. This was the gala night of the New York Philharmonic last Saturday at the CCP. I would have consented to wear a suit of armor, if that was what it took, to see—or hear—the orchestra.

When I was in Germany, I wore a dark suit and a tie to the opera on the couple of occasions that I went there. It wasn't required: being respectably attired was good enough. But I thought I'd show my respect for the artist. My newfound friends were asking me why I decided to be resplendent on those occasions but less than so when meeting with government dignitaries, to which we were unrelentingly exposed. I said it showed my priorities in life. I reserved my best raiment, which was not particularly plentiful, for the really important things in life. For the things that really mattered. Heads of state were not one of them, in whatever country, with the exception of South Africa.

At the lobby, I got a foretaste of what was to come when I saw a friend, emerging from the men's room, in quite a rush to get upstairs. He had seen the performance the night before, he said, and it was magnificent. He repeated the word "magnificent" several times in an awed whisper. The lobby and the upper floor were not just separated by one floor, which was why he was in such a hurry, they were separated by the chasm between the mundane and sublime, between relief and happiness.

I agreed entirely with his assessment of the quality of the playing from the very first couple of pieces the orchestra played. Those were the Philippine and American national anthems. I say "pieces" because they played them like the true musical compositions they were. They did not play them peremptorily, which is how many orchestras do it, to get it over with and get to the heart of things; but with fire and sensitivity, giving back life, or soul, to something we've learned to take for granted. I haven't heard the Philippine National Anthem played so movingly since the Philippine Philharmonic did so during the 100th anniversary of Philippine Independence at the Luneta.

One is tempted to say the New York Philharmonic takes its duties seriously, or takes pride in its craft. But it's more. These guys love music, any kind of music. It is the air they breathe, it is their nectar of life.

The rest of the night could only improve on that wondrously auspicious beginning. The aperitif was Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain," an inspired choice that highlighted the orchestra's formidable virtues. They must have been close to a hundred players—they had the stage of the Big Theater pretty much filled—and everyone played, as my friend rightly said, magnificently. You'd think at some point that Lorin Maazel was wielding a magic wand in lieu of a baton, bringing the piece to yield all its colorful and mysterious secrets.

While at that, from a distance, Maazel looks not unlike Leonard Bernstein, and even conducts like him. He started out being a little sedate, but as the night wore on became more passionate, or agitated, his body by fits swaying and convulsing to the twists and turns of Mussorgsky. Not unlike Bernstein, particularly if you've seen Bernstein leading the Berlin Philharmonic on Beethoven's Ninth. I find that extroversion or visceral quality rather appealing, visually at least. Herbert von Karajan tends to be more introspective and intellectual, though you cannot quarrel with the result, which is as near to heaven as you can get on earth.

The meat and potatoes last Saturday were two popular pieces, Rachmaninoff's second concerto and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. The first featured a pianist of Chinese descent named Lang Lang, who showed why he has stormed the musical world at age 20. He was brilliant, but could still stand improvement, particularly in power. This was the piece Van Cliburn also played here ages ago, shortly after martial law, at the invitation of Imelda—who quite incidentally was there last Saturday in signature butterfly dress—and played authoritatively. But I've always been partial to Cecile Licad, who plays Rachmaninoff with such incredible depth. Lang Lang was fantastic, feeding on the energies of the orchestra, but he did not revise my opinion of Licad being a class by herself.

As to the Tchaikovsky, that made my night, my week, probably my whole month. I bought my vinyl of it more than 20 years ago in Moscow and rather wore it down with repeated playing using a not very expensive diamond needle, which was all I could afford at the time. I love that piece—the entire thing and not just the well-known second movement—and have often found myself conducting it in my mind, occasionally with not very mental, and quite pathetic, gestures to go with it. Maazel made that dream, or fantasy, come true. That was a bravura performance, the orchestra filling the room with a sound that was at once rock solid (no subwoofer could ever catch that rumble with such clarity) and feather light. It had power and grace, it sobbed and exulted, it freely roamed the gulf from hell to heaven. I was transported.

"Storyteller" is not the word you usually associate with music, but that was the word that came to my mind in the midst of this blissful maelstrom, at the height of this bursting of the elements. That was what they were, that was what made them awesome: They were wonderful storytellers. They spun music like Sheherazade spun the tales of genies and carpets that flew that stayed the murderous hand of the caliph. I was there the night the New York Philharmonic unfolded its own tales of wonder and survival, or wisdom and folly, of life and dreams.

And what magic I heard.

The crucial Irish vote

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WARSAW—The Irish Republic vote at the weekend ratifying the Nice Treaty cleared the path for the accession of 10 more Eastern and Central European countries into the European Union. With most of the 10 having been former Soviet bloc states, the Irish vote removes the last hurdle toward the goal of unifying the European continent and blotting out the ideological division that had artificially divided the continent from 1945 to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990.

The vote came after the Irish Republic rejected the treaty in June last year, and the emphatic referendum yes vote on the second attempt completes the ratification by the current 15 members of the EU. The vote is of truly historic proportions because the EU can now go ahead with the process of negotiating the rules of accession. It lifted anxieties in both Western and Central Europe over another Irish rejection and over a delay in the enlargement.

Seeking admission are Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus. Poland is the biggest of the 10 states and during the Middle Ages, Lithuania was part of the Polish kingdom. The first four named countries were part of the Soviet bloc during the Cold War and are in transition toward market economies and democracy.

The Irish vote moves Europe toward a historic destiny and dream that extend the frontier of European democracies to the former borders of the ex-Soviet Union. The Europeans both in the Western and Eastern sides of the continent fully understood the historic significance of the vote as an event equally important as the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet communist empire in 1990. This European expansion is being achieved without a drop of blood but through arduous negotiation and consensus-building. So important is the Irish ratification and the removal of the obstacle to enlargement that the biggest news in Europe—both in the East and the West—was enlargement, pushing to the sidelines the news about President George W. Bush's obsession to launch the United States into war with Iraq. This European priority for the enlargement project highlights their sense of history and consensus, while contrasting them with the unaliteralism that now dominates US foreign policy, whether it is with the Europeans or with Iraq.

The vote was greeted with a sigh of relief in the Eastern and Central European capitals, as well as in the capitals of the 15 democracies of Western Europe. To celebrate the event, the Polish prime minister, Leszeck Miller, a former communist functionary, went to an Irish pub in Warsaw and made the toast, "Tonight I can drink a glass of Guiness jand sing 'I love you like Ireland.'" The vote made possible the accession of new members in 2004, although the EU faces tricky issues like migration of Eastern Europeans to the West and problems of the subsidies flowing from the EU's common agricultural policy.

This was indicated by Jonathan Fall, the EU's spokesperson at the Brussels headquarters of the European Commission, the Union's executive. He said that "we have taken a major step toward enlargement, but it is not over yet. There's still a lot of work to be done on our part and on the part of the applicant countries." In Germany, which invaded Poland in 1939 and whose troops reduced Warsaw to rubble in 1945 in retaliation against the uprising of Polish partisans, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said "This decision opens the way for the enlargement of the European Union."

Pat Cox, president of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, expressed the event in more strategic terms, saying that the Irish vote had "given the clearest possible signal that Europe's rendezvous with destiny cannot be further delayed or postponed."

"What this enlargement means is that we no longer have a border with Eastern Europe, the same as the United States does with Mexico," said Ben Tonra, a lecturer at University College in Dublin. "It means we underpin the transition to democracy in Eastern Europe and put our hands in our pockets to pay for it."

The criteria guiding the EU in the accession of members are, first, the candidate state must have a democratic system; second, it has market economies and a level of economic development close to that of the Western democracies; and, third, its government must relatively be honest.

While many of the former Soviet bloc countries have transformed into parliamentary democracies and have held free elections since the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, former communist functionaries, who have since adapted to democratic policies, have taken power through democratic elections. One of these is the present leadership in Poland.

The accession of 10 new members to the EU adds 75 million people to the Union, swelling the enlarged EU population to more than 450 million, bigger than the population of the United States. It can also make the economy of an enlarged Europe bigger than the US economy, now the biggest in the world.

The political and economic integration of Europe and its enlargement have one outstanding characteristic—although the process has been lenghty and tedious, the expansion is the first multi-national amalgation of nations achieved not through force of arms and conquest but through patient negotiations. Noteworthy is the fact that four of the candidates—the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia—were once part of the multi-nation Austro-Hungarian empire under the Hapsburgs, with Vienna as the capital.

Beijing's avid consumers

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN you've "done" the Great Wall, walked through the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, seen the sights at the Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven, what else do you do in Beijing?

You go shopping. Memories of terrific bargains in garments and linens came flooding back as arrangements for my trip to Beijing were being made. As our China Southern airlines jet winged its way from Xiamen to the capital, visions of cheap, colorful, exotic Chinese blouses, better known locally as the "Rosebud look," filled my mind. Alas, the blouses were but an illusion. It's fall in the capital, and the only Chinese-style blouses available came in such fabrics as velvet and wool, long-sleeved, terribly warm for our weather.

But most everything else was available. At the end of the Asian parliamentarians' meet, I joined an "outing" to Beijing's "bargain center," the Hong Qiao Market, organized by the embassy. I also arranged to meet with my sister Chona, who was also in Beijing for the Global Environment Facility's general assembly, at the entrance of the market. "Remember to bargain," Beth of the embassy reminded us. "Always start bargaining at 30 percent of the offered price."

Chona and I made our way to the top floor of Hong Qiao Market where the pearl traders were, pulled here and there by sellers proclaiming they sold only the "best quality" pearls and offering proof of authenticity by holding up flames to the pearls, or scraping off bits of nacre with knives.

* * *

THE NEXT day, we hurried off to the Silk Market, also known as Silk Alley, soon after breakfast. Just entering the market is an ordeal, as one has to elbow one's way through the crush of shoppers funneled through a narrow alley.

If the pearl traders at Hong Qiao were pushy, the vendors at Silk Alley are downright aggressive. They will pounce on a customer who so much as asks the price for an object, feigning scandal that you would dare offer such an "insulting" price, then thrusting a calculator under your nose when you start to look away. Take a step in another direction and they will yell "Hello! Hello! How much you want to pay?" Go further and they will yank you back, even follow you some distance. I made it a point to decide on a price I thought was reasonable then start bargaining with a figure about 10 yuan below this price.

Believe it or not, even Silk Alley could not satisfy our shopping lust and so we found our way to Lan Dao Store, which turned out to be the "Shoemart of Beijing." We arrived at this conclusion upon encountering a mob of Beijing shoppers, a crowd that would put to shame Megamall on a Sunday. Capitalism and consumerism is alive, well and flourishing in this Communist capital.

* * *

SOMETIMES, the paranoia about terrorism and security lies in the minds of the public, as my experience in the Beijing airport shows. It was my sister Chona's brilliant idea that we could skip the long queues at the immigration counters by passing through the diplomatic channel. As senior social scientist of the GEF, she carries a blue international diplomatic pass and, she thought, she could easily slip me through as her companion ("tell them I'm your domestic," I quipped). But when the immigration officer took a look at my passport and visa, he waved me away.

Dutifully, I lined up behind all the other travelers. But when I reached the immigration desk, the woman began gesticulating, telling me to go back to the end of the line. When I asked to know why, she called for the officer at the diplomatic lane who took my sister's immigration form and began yelling "You not with her! You take another airline! You go to 'S!'" "S?" I wondered. Could he be telling me to see the security office? Then I heard him say something like "You go see the colonel!" Was I to be interrogated by a security officer for trying to pass myself off as a diplomat?

I hurried in the direction he was pointing me at, relaxing only when I realized that I had no escorts. I wasn't going to be interrogated, after all. "S" turned out to be a separate entrance for domestic passengers. The officer was not telling me to see a "colonel," he was telling me I could find the "S" entrance around the corner. I finally realized that since I had entered China through Xiamen, my passport would have to be stamped by immigration officers there.

* * *

MEANTIME, my sister was near panic. Spotting a colleague, she consulted him on how she was going to extricate me from Chinese security. They considered calling the CITS, the official travel agency which was handling their conference's arrangements, and if worse came to worst, even the resident World Bank mission. Fortunately, they decided to wait for me to show up, and they would make a move only if I didn't make an appearance after some time. For my part, I quickly dug into my bag for an embassy staffer's suddenly precious business card.

So you can imagine everyone's relief when I was reunited with my sister. "You gave me a scare!" she exclaimed when I called out her name. "Well, if you were scared, you can imagine how I felt!" I shot back.

Giggly with relief and finally realizing we had essentially frightened ourselves, we celebrated by going shopping (again) and blowing our remaining yuan on blouses and knickknacks. When I finally left to go to my gate—I was going home to Manila, and she was proceeding to her family in Virginia—with plenty of time to spare, Chona urged me to linger over our snacks. "No thanks, I can't wait to leave this country!" I replied. True, it was a false alarm. But it's pretty scary when you're in the middle of a paranoid scenario.

A Luna for sale in Hong Kong

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TODAY is the 145th birth anniversary of the 19th-century Filipino artist and patriot Juan Luna y Novicio. Normally, this is a quiet day except for some commemoration in the Luna Shrine, Badoc, Ilocos Norte, perhaps some program in the public schools that bear his name. At this time of year I try to visit niche 73 in the crypt of the San Agustin Church in Intramuros to visit Luna's remains and let him know he is still remembered. This week Luna is hot copy again due to the controversy hounding the sale of one of his paintings in Hong Kong this Sunday, Oct. 27. The painting goes under the hammer at Christie's and is expected to fetch 2 million Hong Kong dollars (roughly P14 million).

Last Sunday the INQUIRER published a front-page story, titled "No stopping sale of rare Juan Luna" that provided much heat but very little illumination. From what I could understand from the article, Kim Camacho is allegedly blocking the sale of the painting at Christie's, on the grounds that it was illegally exported from the country. Camacho cited a law banning the exportation of century-old cultural artifacts from the Philippines. This is a valid point, but then Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta and National Museum consultant John Silva see it from a different angle because Camacho happens to be the country representative of the rival auction house Sotheby's.

Furthermore, being the wife of the finance secretary, her well-meaning complaint has been (mis)interpreted as interference in the Bureau of Customs. For others it is an issue of *delicadeza* or the lack of it—should Camacho do the actual complaint or should she have asked someone else to do it for her?

Everyone has axes to grind and all this puts color into an otherwise boring issue. Unfortunately, the clash of personalities makes us lose sight of the issue at hand—protection of cultural property. So much for the *intriga*. Has anyone even read Presidential Decree 374 that was issued by Ferdinand Marcos in 1974 to regulate the movement of archaeological property? PD 374 amended certain sections of Republic Act No. 4846 or the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act, approved in 1966. Nowhere in both texts does it say that it is illegal to export cultural property that is at least 100 years old.

Cultural property no matter what its age, can be exported provided it is registered with the National Museum and that the director of the museum approves its exportation in writing. All this red tape is meant to allow the museum to assess if the object is a National Cultural Treasure. This is defined as "a unique object found locally, possessing outstanding, historical, cultural, artistic and/or scientific value which is highly significant to this country and nation." Cultural properties that fall short of the above are considered "important cultural properties."

Obviously, National Cultural Properties cannot be exported for sale, but lesser cultural property can be sold provided they are registered, the sale is taxable, the government is given first option and three months to raise money. The Luna painting on auction in Hong Kong did not get the proper export permit and written permission from the museum director. However, it has not been designated by the National Museum as either a National or Important Cultural Treasure. What muddles the issue is that the INQUIRER article, influenced by nationalism and the hype of the Christie's catalogue, went so far as making the ridiculous suggestion that this small Luna painting, measuring 22 x 31 inches, is as priceless as the massive "Spoliarium."

Let's try to clear the air. This previously untitled painting now known as "Parisian Life," a title supplied by Christie's, was painted in 1892. Focal point of the painting is a Frenchwoman seated uncomfortably inside a Parisian café. She is probably waiting for a date who is late or never arrives.

There is a crumpled newspaper behind her, and the glass on her table is half-empty, suggesting that she has been waiting for awhile. The historical spice to the otherwise ordinary painting are three men on the left side of the canvas looking at the woman as lions stalk and corner their prey. These men have been identified as Luna, Rizal and Ariston Bautista who later acquired the painting. Having two national heroes in the painting does make it unique but does it a National Cultural Treasure make? If you are swayed by the text of the Christie's auction catalogue, you will probably think this painting is the rarest, most important Luna painting of his Paris period, but that is all commercial hype.

The Christie's catalogue says the painting was reproduced in a book on Luna in 1980 where it was listed as "unlocated/whereabouts unknown." I reproduced the same painting in my Rizal book in 1990 and identified the three men in the corner. This was not cited by Christie's probably because in later columns and lectures I suggested that the woman, the focal point of the painting, might have been a prostitute. Or a loose woman waiting to be picked up. If so, what would this make of our heroes huddled in a corner sizing her up?

Would this justify declaring it a national treasure? Surely, a panel of experts convened by the National Museum for this purpose can determine this with some finality, but to date this committee has not yet met. *(To be concluded on Friday)*

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Bittersweet award

HIGH BLOOD

Denis Murphy

LAST Oct. 6, along with nine other men and women over 60, I received the "Sampung Ulirang Nakatatanda" award, which honors oldies who have done their best over the years to help poor people. The auditorium at the University of the Philippines was packed not so much to see the awardees as special guests Dolphy and Nora Aunor. At our age, you take recognition on any terms.

It is a bittersweet award: it marks you publicly as an older person, no matter how young you may feel at heart, but it is a distinct honor, too, all the more so when you see the quality of the other awardees, who have served their communities for up to 50 years. Here are some of these people:

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

Marcelina Perdigan Cabu-os, 64, of Payatas, Quezon City. She was a scavenger on the garbage hill there, who started to go to school when she was 60 and passed her school equivalence exam when she was 62. She has been able to persuade prostitutes, other scavengers, the disabled and old people like herself to go back to school. She enrolled this year in college (Social Work).

Martin Puyoc, 76, of Tabak, Kalinga is a tribal leader who leads nearly all peace negotiations in his area and the reconstruction of peace pacts between tribes in times of conflict. He is an advisor to the younger generation of Kalinga leaders. The citation says, "Despite his poor education, the people look up to him because of his achievements."

Lydia Banayog lives in a small barangay in Antipolo made up of families whose homes were demolished in Manila. During the 1970s she served as the only health worker and "*komadrona*" in the barangay. Clinics were too far away for the people. She was present at every birth and never asked for help. Her citation says, *"Hindi niya alintana kahit dalawang oras ang lakarin niya basta siya'y makatulong."*

Domingo Hernandez Portugal, 75, of Capalonga, Camarines Norte became the first male midwife in his area 42 years ago. Since then he has served his barangay as midwife, herbolario, *manghihilot* and Christian family man, with pay and without pay. He can use the bark of trees as splints for broken bones and cure most ordinary illnesses with herbs. He has 10 children. His neighbors have electricity, but he can't afford it.

Natividad Ocampo, 66, of Looc, Calamba joined the "Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan" and was detained for a year when she did the laundry of others in order to make money to pay the lawyers of the women detainees. She continued down the years to help farmer families by working for agrarian reform. The citation calls her "a survivor, a feminist, an innovator because of her participation in the struggle of women."

They are all poor even after years of service. The other awardees are just as interesting.

I was thinking these are the same poor people as those who live in our urban poor areas and make a living as vendors. When we evict poor families and drive off vendors we are harming men and women who have the same decency and love of their fellow human beings as the awardees. My own thinking after years in urban poor areas is that there is more courage, love and humanity among the poor than in our better off areas. Cardinal Stephen Kim of Seoul once said we should value the urban poor because they still possess the traditional values of the nation.

I couldn't have asked for a nicer start to my own citation. "Denis Murphy's life in the Philippines which spans 50 years has been at the service of the poor."

When I was young I never imagined I'd wind up on a stage someday with former scavengers, male midwives, peace pact negotiators and women freedom fighters. Who could have imagined it?

A study by the Institute of Philippine Culture is showing that older people among the urban poor cannot retire and live quietly with their children's help. It's the other way around. The older people must work to support the young, since it is harder every year for young families to survive on their own. Times are getting worse in the urban poor areas. The last thing the poor need is more hard times from the government.

The middle and upper classes give MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando an 80-percent approval rating. Maybe they wouldn't do so if they knew that among the poor who are swept away or evicted are women of 60 going back to school, midwives who are given 30 years of free service, old male midwives too poor after 50 years of service to afford electricity and thousands of older men and women supporting the very young.

Denis Murphy is over 60 and works with the Urban Poor Associates.

'Attorney-not-yet'

Raymunda P. Ortega

THIS is the moniker, nickname, alias or whatever, which my friends, relatives and even family members used to call me during my 35-year service in the government, particularly the judiciary, as a court stenographer. Having been exposed day in and day out to the ongoings in court proceedings and hobnobbing with lawyers, judges, prosecutors, solicitors and litigants, it came naturally to me to oftentimes think, breath and speak like a lawyer myself, even if I was very far from being one at all. Maybe it was because I was interested in the law profession, although I had no formal education in it except when I took up business law in my first two years in the college of commerce.

During court hearings, while busily taking down notes of the arguments of counsel on opposing sides, I could be so absorbed in what each was saying that I would wonder how the other would contradict and argue his side as well. When criminal and civil cases were being tried, with witnesses giving their testimony, I could tell when a question would be objected to, and before the opposing counsel could stand up, I already expected what he would say. There were instances too when the counsel would object to a question because the witness was incompetent to answer it. Being very much aware that a "little knowledge is dangerous" I just used to sit back and listen to arguments among lawyers in the office, without voicing out an opinion on the subject at hand. But I could tell right away, of course, when for example the crime of theft becomes qualified theft; or when it is not theft at all but its elements are estafa; when serious physical injuries become attempted or frustrated homicide, or when homicide should be charged as murder. I have memorized in my mind the elements of each felony, and what makes one different from the other.

Not only have I become familiar with the law in court trials, in all the years of my employment I also became knowledgeable and quite adept in preparing legal forms and documents such as affidavits of different sorts, various contracts and deeds of sale, mortgage, etc. This, I think, was the reason I became "attorney-not-yet" to my friends, neighbors and even my own officemates. I was often asked to write demand letters for creditors whose debtors refuse to pay their debts; for landlords whose tenants refuse to vacate their premises despite oral demands for them to do so. I was consulted by couples who could no longer tolerate each other's presence and wanted to have an annulment. There were people who also asked me to prepare petitions for adoption. To these parties, I say, I know my limitations since I am not a lawyer and it would be for their best interests to consult a full-fledged lawyer for their purposes, and not rely on one who is merely an "attorney-not-yet."

Raymunda P. Ortega, 70, is a retired government employee and former president of the Pastoral Council of the Immaculate Conception Parish, GSIS Village, Project 8, Quezon City.

What 'privacy' will an ID system violate?

WHAT really is one's "privacy" that some militant and human rights groups claim will be violated in case a national identification system is implemented in our country?

Is "privacy" a part of Filipino life?

On July 23, 1998, the Supreme Court, in the case of Ople vs Torres, by a vote of 8-6, declared as null and void for being unconstitutional Administrative Order No. 308 issued by then President Fidel V. Ramos on Dec. 2, 1996 providing for the "adoption of a national computerized identification reference system."

With such a very slim majority, the Court, through Justice Reynato S. Puno, held that the proposed national identification system needed a specific law to be enacted by Congress and cannot be implemented by a mere administrative order. It further ruled that the said system "violates the right to privacy."

It should be noted, however, that while then Associate Justice (now Chief Justice) Hilario G. Davide Jr., and Justice Artemio V. Panganiban voted with the majority, they reserved their "judgment on the issue of whether a national ID system is an infringement of the constitutional right to privacy or of the freedom of thought until after Congress passes, if ever, a law to this effect." They also explained that "the voting of the justices is decisive only on the need for the appropriate legislation, and it is only on this ground that (Ople's) petition is granted by this Court."

In his dissenting opinion, Justice Santiago M. Kapunan said that the proposed national ID system will "tremendously improve and uplift public service and speed up transactions with government and private offices." On the other hand, Justice Vicente V. Mendoza said that there is nothing in the system that will violate the "right to privacy." He quoted Carmen Guerrero-Nakpil as saying that there is not even a "precise word for 'privacy' in Filipino."

Even Justice Flerida Ruth Romero who voted with the majority admitted that the word is not even in the lexicon of the Filipinos who "think it perfectly natural and in good taste to inquire into each other's intimate affairs. One has only to sit through a televised talk show to be convinced that what passes for wholesome entertainment is actually an invasion into one's private life, leaving the interviewee embarrassed and outraged by turns."

Clearly, the issue of whether a national ID system constitutes a violation of one's right to privacy has not been passed upon by the Supreme Court in the Ople case. With the retirement of some justices who voted against the proposed national ID system and given the present composition of the Supreme Court, coupled with recent developments affecting our country economically and politically, it will be very timely for Congress to pass a law adopting a national ID system. Guided by the aforesaid majority decision and dissenting opinions in the Ople case, it would not be difficult for Congress to pass the law and if challenged, to prove its constitutionality before the Supreme Court.

—ROMULO B. MACALINTAL,
13 Cagayan Valley St.,
Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City

Moving ahead with the President

THIS is a reaction to the article by Solita Collas-Monsod in her column recently regarding the issue of the President and her appointees.

I fully agree with Monsod, that we must focus on the real picture, the real problems facing our country. It is indeed a waste of our time to be bickering about a few beauty shots in a popular magazine featuring our President when we can devote our energies to creating solutions to the problems besetting our country.

Given her choice of reputable appointees, their individual performance will still be measured collectively, i.e., the overall performance of the Macapagal administration. Thus, the performance of the Cabinet reflects on the effectiveness of its President. Good or bad appointees, it still remains the duty of the President to steer the Cabinet and, therefore, the country by political will and effective management.

In this light, we give President Macapagal-Arroyo her due. Despite the many stumbling blocks, she has continued to exert her utmost efforts to resurrect our economy and put us back on track to recovery and growth. And many of us in the business sector feel that Ms Macapagal has slowly but surely returned credibility to the government and its officials.

But our leader is not the only one who should be working toward the betterment of our society. It is also the responsibility of the citizenry to respond positively and derive inspiration from her leadership and help fuel the momentum to move the country toward that point of the growth-curve that will easily result in double-digit economic growth, confidence and prosperity for the people and the country.

—GEORGE U. LORENZANA,
president, Office Warehouse Inc.,
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave.,
Libis, Quezon City

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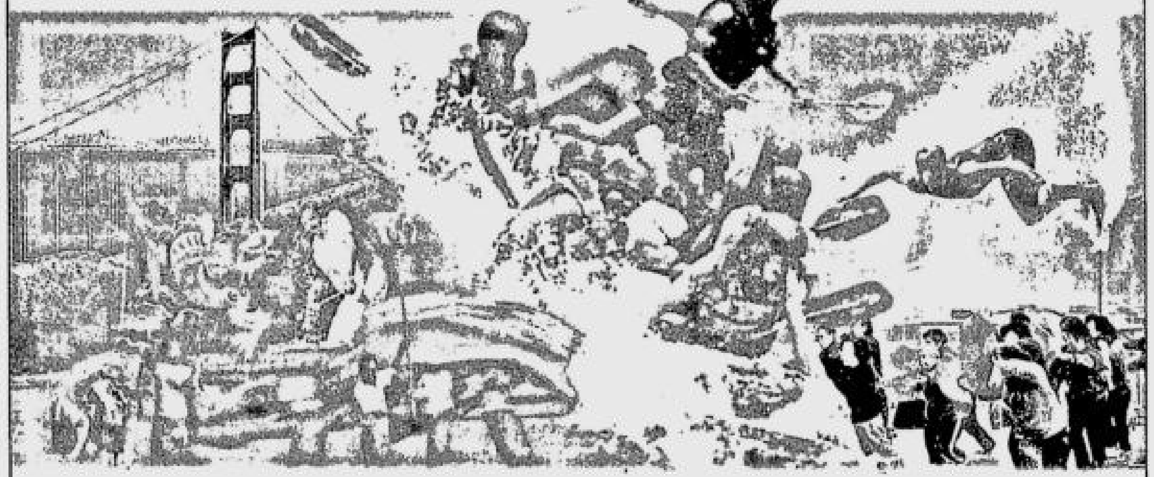

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3498, Series of 2002

Who will guard our forests?

THIS refers to a front-page story on Oct. 16 titled "Co-op cuts trees like matchsticks," showing a picture of a giant tree which was cut allegedly by members of a non-government organization (NGO)/people's cooperative who were participating in a community-based forest management project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It is very sad to note that the very groups which are expected to protect the forest and its resources are the ones destroying it. What makes it doubly catastrophic is that the cutting of century-old trees is being done within a critical watershed area where the water for domestic and irrigation needs of the people in the lowlands are coming from.

When can the people learn that what they are doing will cause the water to dry up during periods of less rain and be incapable to contain excess water during the rainy days? In other words, the water balance has been disrupted because of these destructive activities. What happened in the Ormoc tragedy is one example of this event where too much water came down to the lowlands due to the absence of enough forest cover that will hold the excess water from rain.

On the other hand, the expected El Niño phenomenon that will be experienced by the country this month, will make the land so susceptible that will hinder or even cause the death of both plants and animal species due to the absence of green forest vegetation.

In this story, it is ironic that the enemies of the environment are the local people who are expected to protect the forest, the source of their livelihood. The local government and the DENR must take action to stop these illegal and destructive activities.

—LAUDEMIR S. SALAC,
10692 Elon-Elon St.,
Sta Fe Subd., College,
Los Baños, Laguna

Construction of Caliraya spillway continues

MAY I suggest that Neal Cruz visit Caliraya. Someone is feeding him false information.

I am there every weekend and can assure him that not only is the new spillway well on the way to completion, but it is also very impressively done. Work continues well into the night and on weekends.

There have been a number of articles recently on this subject which suggest to me someone has a grudge against the company and is waging a vendetta.

I would be delighted to host him at Caliraya if he'd like to come up and see just how much has been done.

—PETER WALLACE,
14/F Sagittarius Bldg.,
H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo
Village, Makati City

Relisting Postinor

ALMOST a year has passed since Postinor was delisted from the drug registry by the Bureau of Food and Drugs with the approval of the Department of Health. This decision, issued last Dec. 7, 2001, arbitrarily stated that "Postinor had abortifacient effects." Even after the hearing on Postinor's re-listing on Oct. 4, 2002 the DOH has not made a definitive ruling to make Postinor available in the Philippine market.

The DOH's delay in making Postinor available denies all women in the Philippines their right to prevent pregnancy. Countless women who have been raped, engaged in unprotected sex, or who have experienced contraceptive failure are unable to prevent pregnancy. This is a blatant human rights violation.

The issue that the DOH wanted to resolve during the hearing was the question of "what is the moment before an established pregnancy called." The only issue that should be resolved is whether Postinor is an abortifacient or not. The DOH should not rule on the basis of morals or ideology.

The World Health Organization defines emergency contraception (EC) a method of preventing pregnancy. It says that EC does not interrupt pregnancy and thus is not considered a method of abortion. Countries worldwide are not only registering EC pills such as Postinor but they are making them available over the counter i.e, without prescription.

In accordance with good governance and policymaking, the best thing that the DOH can do is to re-list Postinor in the registry of available drugs in the Philippines. As a government agency charged with addressing the health concerns of the entire Filipino populace, the DOH should rule on the basis of internationally accepted medical findings and not allegations of fundamentalist Catholic groups which have deliberately engaged in a campaign to mislead the Philippine government and populace. The DOH's delay is forcing desperate women to resort to clandestine illegal and unsafe abortion to terminate their unwanted pregnancies—pregnancies that could have been avoided with the use of Postinor.

—CLARA RITA A. PADILLA,
visiting international legal fellow,
The Center for Reproductive
Law and Policy, 120 Wall St.,
14/F New York City

Why pick on Colonel Bibit?

MUCH as I shun publicity or lend credence to unfounded accusations, I am constrained to answer the column written by Mon Tulfo on Oct. 5, to help redeem my family's tarnished reputation and set the record straight.

I sincerely hope Tulfo is not being used by some quarters, unwittingly or wittingly, to peddle lies and baseless rumors to suit their selfish interests.

Tulfo claims I disobeyed the order of deputy commissioner Ray Allas to seize some 70 container vans of smuggled rice that landed at the Port of Cebu recently.

The rice shipment is said to belong to rice smugglers from Bicol and that the group was given a go signal to bring its goods to the port. He further insinuated that I bully my superiors and commit acts of insubordination.

I am not sure whether Tulfo was only misinformed or he has polluted sources, and what could have motivated him to spread such damaging, malicious and utterly baseless reports.

A day before Tulfo's column saw print, I opened the seized smuggled rice in the presence of an ABS-CBN TV news crew. The coverage was aired during the 4 p.m. "Breaking News" of ABS-CBN, and its prime time news programs "TV Patrol" and "Headlines."

If I had not seized the smuggled rice and if I were a party to smuggling, I would have kept the opening of the container vans away from media and the public.

I have seized 27,983 sacks of rice now stored at the National Food Authority from the time I was reassigned to the Port of Cebu on July 16.

During my stint as district collector of the Port of Subic, I was also able to apprehend 300,000 sacks of rice, the bulk of which was brought into the country from Vietnam via M/V Hungyen.

That particular shipment, worth at least P300 million, was the reason why vested interests wanted me out of the Port of Subic then. My only fault, which Tulfo calls insubordination, is my determination to put an end to the previous Bureau of Customs leadership's penchant to come up with whimsical and arbitrary orders to satisfy benefactors and politician-backers.

My performance and track record will speak for themselves.

The Department of Finance earlier set a P228-million collection target for the month of August, but the Port of Cebu posted a 44.24-percent collection surplus or almost P100 million, with the total August collection of P328.67 million.

This record-setting performance actually commenced when I was assigned to the Port of Cebu.

The port had a first quarter performance of -16.99 percent and second quarter output of 30.50 percent. From July 1 to 15, it posted a -24.95 percent collection.

When I arrived on July 16, I immediately arrested the port's negative output and registered a collection surplus of 81.11 percent from July 16 to 30, with a P217.33-million collection for 15 days or almost double the target for the month pegged at P120 million.

My question to Tulfo is: Why pick on a district collector and collection district with an otherwise positive performance and continue to bring much-needed revenues for the cash-strapped government, and remain silent on the mediocre performance of other district collectors and collection districts?

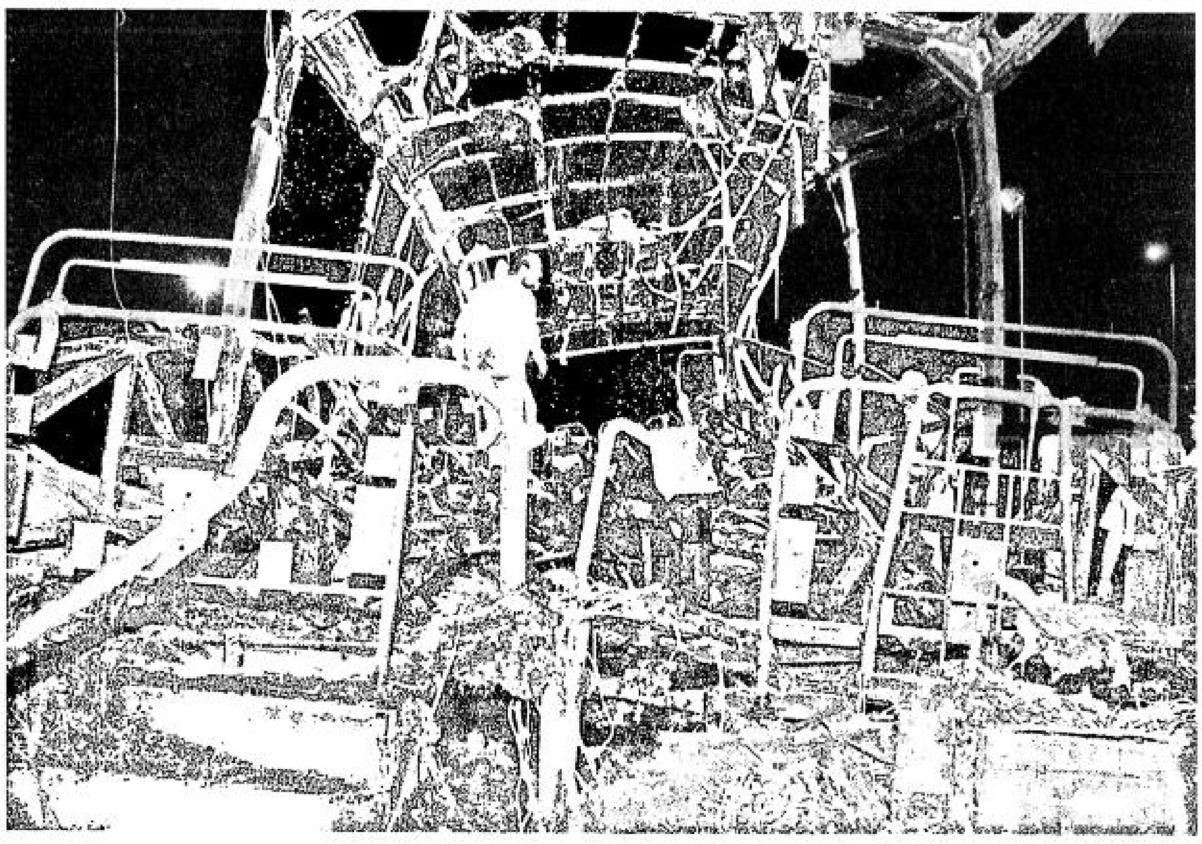
—COL. BILLY C. BIBIT (ret.),
district collector,
Bureau of Customs,
Port of Cebu

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Suicide car bomb in Israel

Story on Page 12



ISRAELI policemen inspect the carcass of a bus after a suicide car bomb blast killed at least 14 people and wounded 48 others as it tore apart the bus at Karkur junction just outside the town of Pardes Hanna, between Tel Aviv and Haifa, Oct. 21. The armed wing of the radical Palestinian Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack. AFP

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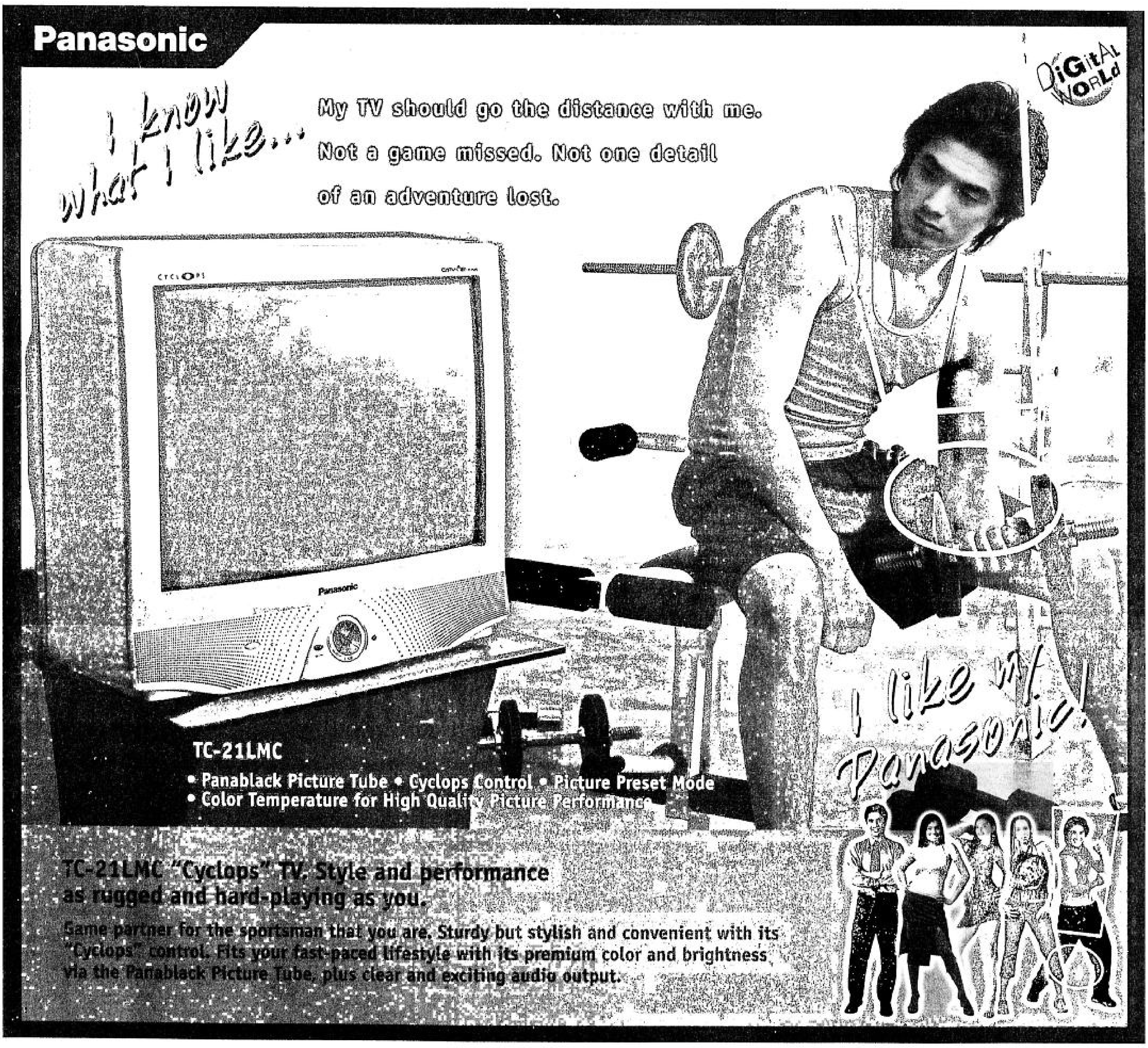

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New blast threatens to reignite Mideast violence

JERUSALEM—The latest Palestinian suicide bombing threatened Tuesday to reignite the cycle of violence in the Middle East as Israel mulled its response to the attack which left at least 14 people dead and blew a hole in US hopes to revive the peace process.

In northern Israel on Monday a jeep loaded with explosives and petrol cans blew up alongside a bus at Karkur junction just outside the town of Pardes Hanna, between Tel Aviv and Haifa.

A police spokesperson said at least 14 people had been killed, while Israeli television said some 50 wounded included a 2-year-old girl, listed in serious condition.

The radical Palestinian Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility for the blast, which came amid tentative new moves toward peace.

However, a senior advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon promptly blamed Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, "by direct commission or omission" for the atrocity.

The explosion came as progress was reported on a "roadmap" for a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict being drawn up by an international quartet of Washington, Moscow, the European Union and United Nations.

But Zalman Shoval, Sharon's foreign policy advisor, said: "Before we can embark on any roadmap, there must be an absolute end to terror and violence, and this is contingent on a change in the Palestinian leadership."

Previous Palestinian suicide attacks have prompted Israel to launch retaliatory strikes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The European Union, the United States and others urged restraint this time, fearing a re-escalation of violence in the region after 10 days of relative calm.

"Difficult as it might seem at times such as these, what Israelis and Palestinians need more than ever is less blood, and more commitment to reestablish a fruitful cooperation that should lead to dialogue and peace," EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said.

The White House, which has also called for Arafat to be dumped as Palestinian leader, condemned the attack and underlined the US commitment to the Middle East peace process.

"The administration condemns the most recent attack in Israel. Peace must be pursued and the violence must be stopped," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer told reporters.

US envoy William Burns, on an extended tour of the Middle East, said in Riyadh that he had come to stress the US president's commitment to the two-state vision to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Burns arrived in Saudi Arabia from Jordan Sunday as part of a regional tour aimed at making "concrete" progress in ending the conflict, which has claimed more than 2,500 lives and has complicated US aims to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The roadmap aims to secure an independent Palestinian state living side by side with Israel by 2005.

His 12-stop tour has already included talks in Egypt with President Hosni Mubarak, and he is due to also travel to Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the West Bank, Yemen, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait.

For his part, Arafat moved swiftly to denounce the deadly bus bombing, insisting he was against "the killing of civilians on both sides."

"I reject this operation completely. The Palestinian leadership is against the killing of civilians on both sides," Arafat said in a statement from the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Separately, the Palestinian Authority called "immediately for resuming without conditions the peace process as this is the only way to break the circle of violence and bloodshed."

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Monday he was "appalled" by the car bomb attack.

In a statement released by his spokesperson, Annan, who was on a trip to Asia, said he "once again calls on all Palestinian groups to stop immediately all such acts of violence."

On Nov. 29 last year, a Palestinian suicide bomber killed three Israelis when he blew himself up on a bus in the same location.

The last fatal Palestinian attack in Israel occurred on Oct. 10, when a suicide bomber killed one woman as he blew himself up after being thwarted from boarding a bus full of soldiers in eastern Tel Aviv. *AFP*

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US: New Iraq resolution 'imminent'

UNITED NATIONS—As the five permanent members of the UN Security Council met to discuss a new "revised text" on Iraq put forth by the United States Monday, the White House said a resolution appeared imminent.

"I can't predict the exact dates that they will take concrete action, but I think it's moving forward nicely," said Ari Fleischer, who has been monitoring the meetings hosted by US Ambassador to the United Nations John Negroponte.

"There will be serious consequences if (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein fails to honor his obligations," said Fleischer, adding that if this text is approved Washington will not need a second resolution explicitly authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

The United States and Britain have said inspections of Iraq's alleged arsenal of weapons of mass destruction cannot begin until a new resolution has been passed.

Baghdad has been in talks with the United Nations to allow inspectors back into Iraq for the first time since 1998. The United States accuses Iraq of developing biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

The Bush administration has repeatedly said it would like to see a strong resolution with clear-cut punishments for any Iraqi failure to comply, including the threat of force.

Meanwhile, France, China and Russia have all expressed a willingness to see the results of this round of arms inspections, hoping to avoid a conflict that could destabilize the Middle East.

France has proposed a two-resolution process, with an initial resolution that would revise the arms inspections guidelines, and a second that would prescribe the use of force in the event of Iraqi noncompliance.

However, the US hopes to avoid a second resolution by getting the other four members to agree to the next text submitted to the other four permanent members of the council. *AFP*

Police hunting sniper plead with caller

ROCKVILLE, Maryland—Police on Monday pleaded with a mystery caller they believe could be the sniper terrorizing the Washington area to contact them again, in a dramatic twist in the hunt.

Hours after two men were detained in a swoop and then ruled out as suspects, Charles Moose, the police chief coordinating the hunt, sent two cryptic public messages to the sniper who has killed nine people and wounded three since Oct. 2.

Moose, police chief for Montgomery County in Maryland where five people were killed, indicated that some kind of communication has been established with the sniper, or someone close to the killer, following an appeal late Sunday.

"The message that needs to be delivered is that we are going to respond to a message that we have received. We are preparing a response at this time," he said, refusing to take related questions.

A few hours later, Moose said investigators wanted a new chance to talk to someone who had made contact on a special line.

"The person who called could not hear everything that you said. The audio was unclear and we want to get it right. Call us back so that we can clearly understand," the police chief told a press conference, again declining to explain the apparent contacts but urging the media to repeat his appeal as much as possible.

Police reportedly found a telephone number near a restaurant in Ashland, Virginia where a 37-year-old man was shot and seriously wounded on Saturday night.

Investigators spent Sunday combing a wooded area behind the restaurant, from where it is believed the gunman fired his weapon.

Late Sunday, Moose urged a person who left a message near the restaurant to make contact. "You gave us a telephone number. We do want to talk to you. Call us at the number you provided. Thank you." *AFP*

US to name Jemaah Islamiah a terror organization

JAKARTA—The Bush administration moved toward designating Jemaah Islamiah a terrorist organization as Indonesian police waited on Tuesday to interrogate its alleged leader in his hospital bed.

Ten policemen and 15 supporters of Muslim militant cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, suspected of plotting to kill President Megawati Sukarnoputri when she was vice president, stood watch outside his hospital room in the central Java city of Solo.

Another 30 supporters, mostly clad in Islamic green, sat in the hospital yard. They have threatened protests if police, who have formally detained Bashir, try to move the cleric to Jakarta.

Bashir, who says he is a simple teacher and preacher with no terrorism ties, was rushed to hospital on Friday with what doctors say are respiratory, heart and ulcer problems.

On Tuesday, fellow Muslim teachers said the militant cleric had sworn in the name of Allah he was not involved in any plot against President Megawati and that he did not know the self-confessed al Qaeda operative who accused him of it.

"I never facilitated or helped or incited or was involved in any kind of way to carry out an assassination plot against President Megawati," the teachers quoted Bashir as saying during their visit to his hospital room.

They said Bashir also swore he did not know Omar al-Faruq, an al Qaeda operative nabbed in Indonesia in June and turned over to the United States for questioning.

Foreign intelligence officials have said for months Bashir is a leader of the al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiah, blamed for terror plots throughout Southeast Asia. Some regional governments had urged his arrest.

Jakarta finally detained him after the October 12 blasts in Bali that took nearly 200 lives, with some foreign intelligence officials and at least one Indonesian cabinet minister suspecting al Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiah were responsible. *Reuters*

Diana kept ring of lover, court told

LONDON—Princess Diana kept a signet ring belonging to her former lover James Hewitt in a locked box in her sitting room, a court heard on Monday.

Details of the ring emerged during the trial of Diana's former butler Paul Burrell, 44, who denies three charges of theft after more than 300 items, including letters, nightwear and intimate photos of the royal family were found in his home.

Mrs. Justice Ann Rafferty ruled that the ring, which a senior police office had earlier said was "too sensitive" to identify in open court, could be introduced as evidence.

Burrell's defense counsel, Lord Carlile, questioned Detective Sergeant Robert Milburn about a search of Burrell's house last year.

"You were looking for an item of jewelery, James Hewitt's signet ring," he said. "You did not find Major James Hewitt's signet ring which was regarded by the police as very sensitive and important."

Milburn said recovering the ring and box wasn't the main purpose of the search.

He told the court on Friday police had been asked to establish the whereabouts of a wooden box containing some of Diana's most treasured possessions.

The court heard that there was no evidence that Burrell, author of an etiquette guide "In the Royal Manner," had ever tried to profit from any of his royal mementoes.

The book is based on his 21 years' royal service, 10 of them with Diana, both before and after her divorce from heir to the throne, Prince Charles. *Reuters*

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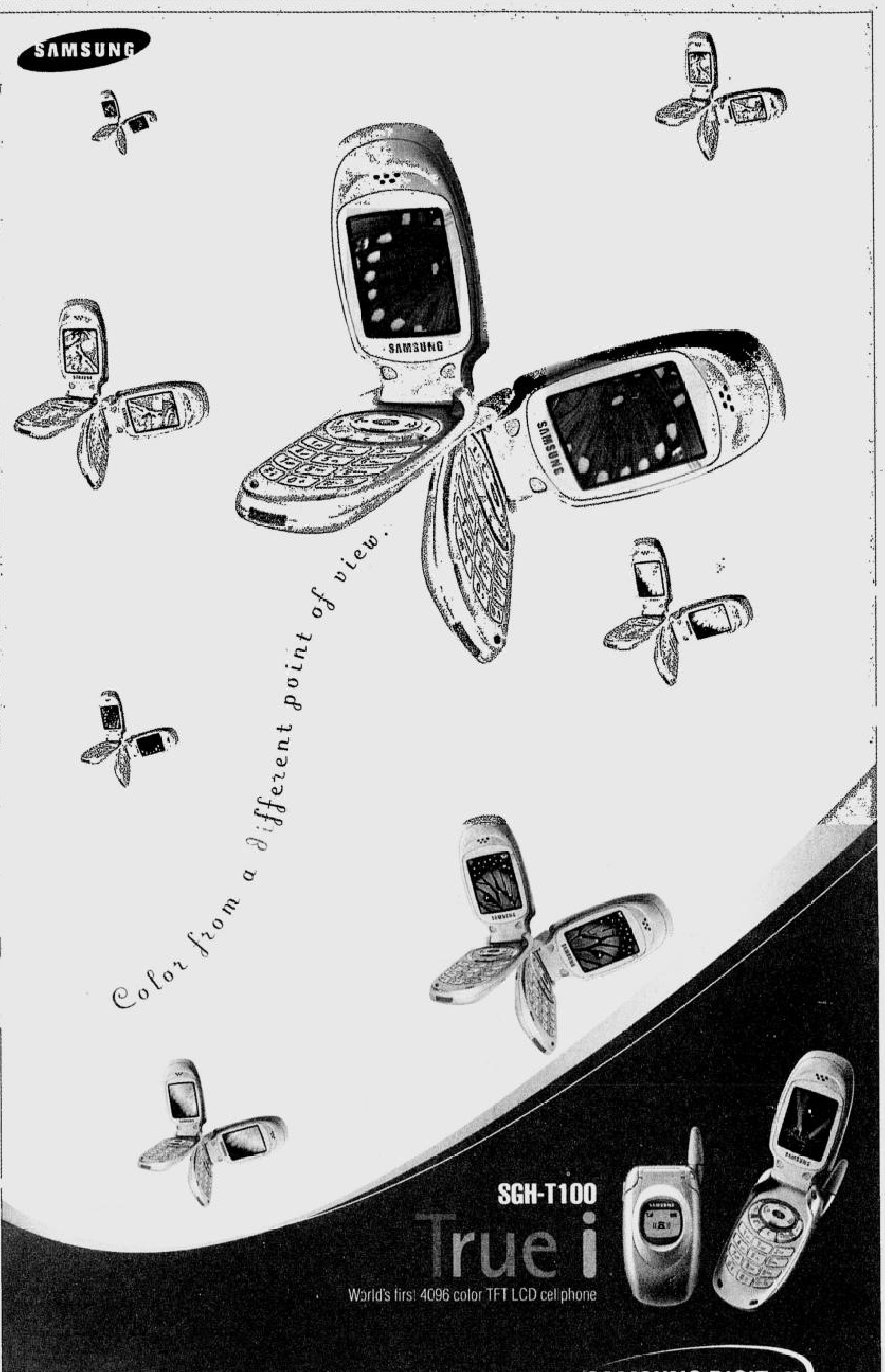

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Imelda ready to retire if . . .

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos is ready to retire from politics but on one condition. She wants the government to stop the "injustice" being done to her family.

Ms Marcos was referring to the string of criminal and administrative cases filed by the government against her and her family.

The flamboyant Marcos widow said she could still serve and help the people in her private capacity.

"I have come to a point in my life that I don't have to run just to serve the Filipino people," she told the INQUIRER on Sunday night.

"My plan is always to give, to serve and to love my country. That is my obsession and it falls to my philosophy; that only things you keep are those you can give away," she added.

The former first lady, wearing a long black gown with a duck-shape brooch-studded with diamonds, said that if the Macapagal administration stops committing injustice to the Marcos and Romualdez families, then she might reconsider her plan to retire from politics.

"When you say you go to politics, the ultimate end of politics is justice. So long as there is injustice committed against us, I'll be there," she told the INQUIRER.

Ms Marcos ran for president in 1992 but lost to Fidel Ramos, a retired military general who had served as Army chief and then Armed Forces vice chief of staff when her husband, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was in power.

In 1998, the former first lady also sought the presidency but dropped the bid midway. She then opted to support then Vice President Joseph Estrada, a known Marcos ally. Estrada won the election but was ousted from power in January 2000 by the People Power II following the jueteng scandal that rocked his administration.

In the 2001 elections, Ms Marcos campaigned for her brother, Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr. and nephews Alfred and Carlos, the mayor's sons.

Only Mayor Romualdez won. His son, Alfredo Romualdez Jr., however, lost his reelection bid as Leyte's first district representative. His brother Caloy lost his bid as representative for the province's second district.

Hundreds of cases were filed against the Marcos family, including their cronies. They were believed to have plundered the country's economy when the late strongman was in power.

"The government should stop doing this injustice to us. For 17 years, they relentlessly charged the Marcos family of all sort of cases. But what did we get in return? No convictions," she said.

Ms Marcos cited her acquittal in a New York federal court in 1991 and at the Supreme Court a few years back as proofs that the charges filed against her family were politically motivated.

Her non-convictions, she added, only meant that the family was innocent and did not commit any wrong doing during their 20-year-rule.

"All of these are useless and wasteful exercise," she said.

Marcos was in the city upon the invitation of Mayor Romualdez to grace a "barrio fiesta," held at the Kanhuraw Convention Center in the city.

The affair was part of the celebration of the 58th Leyte Gulf Landings Anniversary last Oct. 20. It was attended by city officials, employees and barangay officials.

Joining her were her brother, former Leyte Gov. Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez and sister Conchita Yap. It was the first public appearance of the siblings in the city after a long time.

Traders assured of safety after Iloilo kidnapping

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Police and government officials in Western Visayas have assured the safety of businessmen following the kidnapping of a scion of a Chinese-Filipino businessman in Iloilo City last week.

In a meeting of the regional peace and order council (RPOC) yesterday, the officials also urged local executives and the community to be involved in preventing kidnappings and criminality in the region.

"We condemn the kidnapping," said Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores, RPOC chair.

He said the RPOC decided to involve local executives in the fight against kidnapping and criminality "because this is the concern of the whole region and not only the police."

On Oct. 15. at least three unidentified men abducted 14-year-old Jefferson Tan as he was leaving the Iloilo Central Commercial High School inside the Ledesco Village in La Paz District here.

The suspects took over the victim's Honda CRV along with his driver and a classmate. The three were taken to Barangay Tacas in Jaro District where Tan was transferred to another vehicle. His classmate and driver were released unharmed.

The boy is the younger of two sons of businessman Joseph Tan who owns several businesses here including distribution of electrical equipment.

The kidnappers reportedly asked for P50 million in ransom. The boy has not been released as of yesterday.

Police authorities refused to provide details on the kidnapping. They earlier urged media outlets here for a news blackout but news of the kidnapping was prematurely released on Friday.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas said he tried contacting the victim's father but the family refused to cooperate with the police and local officials.

"We have no feedback on the situation of the child," he said.

The kidnapping is the first since the kidnap slaying of Bacolod City-based businesswoman Roberta Cokin in 1995.

But Miraflores said the kidnapping is an "isolated case" and allayed fears that kidnap gangs are targeting more victims in the region.

But Treñas said the kidnapping disturbed the business community here. "The business community is very concerned, impatient and does not want this to happen again," Treñas told reporters here.

Measures are being put up to prevent more kidnappings including the setting up of mobile checkpoints in different areas of the city, he said.

Batangas power plants, refinery beef up security

BATANGAS CITY—Power plants and the oil refinery in this city have tightened security as police declared red alert status in Batangas province, where most of the power plants supplying power to the Luzon grid are located.

Batangas police director Sr. Supt. Rolando Lorenzo said police at the Shell refinery in Barangay Tabangao, the Ilijan Power Plant in Barangay Ilijan, the First Gas Power Corp. and the San Lorenzo Power Plants in Barangay Sta. Rita Kalsada, in this city, have doubled the security with more policemen in civilian clothes roving day and night.

"We've also enforced a round-the-clock checkpoint composed of 10 police officers and three civilians in the power plants and oil refinery in the city," Lorenzo said. "The police in towns with oil refineries and power plants have also been ordered to go on round-the-clock patrols," he added.

Tight security has also been enforced in shopping malls and bus stations in Batangas and Lipa cities, he said.

The red alert status has been raised since Sunday, according to Lorenzo, after intelligence reports said New People's Army bombers are targeting the power plants and oil refineries in Batangas.

Also threatened by bomb attacks were the Caltex refinery in San Pascual town, five kilometers from the city, the Petron refinery in Mabini town, and the National Power Corp.'s coal-fired power plant in Calaca.

Shell Refinery Administration, Personnel and Security manager Jun Espina said the government is now providing security for the company but still they have increased their security guards to over 50 who continuously rove the oil refinery facility on a 24-hour basis. Shell refinery in Barangay Tabangao is one of the oil refineries of Pilipinas-Shell Petroleum Corp.

"Our company has increased the number of security guards assigned in all escape routes, gates, and around the entire facility," Espina said. "Right now, we have just had a meeting with Talim, a local NGO in the barangay that proposed a round-the-clock *ronda* (civilian guard) force around the facility."

First Gas Power Corp. deputy project manager Ramon Araneta said security in the power plant has also been increased since the bombings in Mindanao and Metro Manila. ***Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.
18th ANNUAL CONVENTION
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Messages

Warmest felicitations to the officers and members of The Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc. on your 18thAnnual Convention.

Your organization's efforts help our oncologists keep abreast of the current trends and updates in the profession, particularly in the care of cancer patients and cancer prevention. I encourage your efforts to upgrade your expertise in this specialized field of medicine and to intensify your efforts in ensuring a healthy Filipino nation.

The theme " New Frontiers and Traditional Values in Cancer Care", shows your determination to provide the highest quality of medical care and treatment for cancer patients. A healthy citizenry is essential in our efforts to win the war on poverty. Let us intensify on work to improve our people's quality of life as a hallmark of a strong Republic.

MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Greetings and warm welcome to the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Oncologists on the holding of their 18th Annual Convention with the theme, "New Frontiers and Traditional Values in Cancer Care."

I would like to commend the distinguished members of your organization for their steadfast support and commitment to initiatives towards improving the health of our cancer patients. The Department of Health acknowledges your society's role in developing standards of care for your specific patient group and in providing them with the much-needed healthcare services.

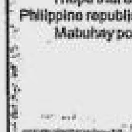
This gathering is essential, as it has been organized to provide updates to cancer experts and health practitioners to keep them abreast with the latest trends in the treatment and management of cancer in our country. I am hoping that this conference can advocated an increased public education on prevention and control of these dreaded diseases.

Let us increase awareness by focusing on the benefits of practicing traditional values of indulging in "healthy lifestyle" as means of preventing cancer and other lifestyle-related diseases.

I hope that all these efforts will ultimately redound towards ataining our vision of a strong Philippine republic composed of healthy, empowered, productive and progressive Filipinos.

Mabuhay po kayon lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary of Health



Welcome to the 18th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.

The convention theme "New Frontiers and Traditional Values in Cancer Care", focuses on the advances in diagnosis, treatment, and management of cancer and the continuing impact of traditional values in this field. In this modern era of rapid technological growth and astounding developments in cancer research, we are confronted with the issues related to psychosocial and spiritual concerns which directly or indirectly affect the way we manage our patients. These issues are inevitable and we are left with no choice but to resolve them and apply them in some situations.

This year's convention promises to be more exciting as evidenced by a fully-packed programme. As in the past, there will be lectures by local and foreign experts, various symposia, and the usual social functions. Surely, there will be more learning and fun in store for everyone.

In behalf of the officers and the organizing committee, I would like to thank you for your never-ending support to our society. This convention is a fitting highlight to our year-long collaboration and solidarity as partners in this specialty that we cherish.

MIRIAM JOY C. CALAGUAS, M.D.
President, Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.

Greetings!

Welcome to the 18th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Oncologists. This year's theme celebrates traditional values: preserving quality of life and acknowledging the oncologist's role as a mere instrument of the Divine Healer. At this time of uncertainty and foreboding, in our country and in the world, it is good to pause and reflect, as we learn about new advances and future directions in oncology.

Why the theme "Traditional Values and New Frontiers in Cancer Care"? Cancer statistics reveal that cancer is the third leading cause of death among Filipinos. Survival figures for the two most dreaded cancers (lung and breast) remain dismal despite scientific advances in molecular biotechnology, imaging and radiation oncology, among others. Why?

Perhaps it is time to allocate more resources to preventive measures such as "no smoking" and breast self-examination. Perhaps it is time to pay keener attention to nutrition, environmental sanitation and pollution, and management of hazardous waste. Perhaps now, more than ever, we need to go beyond the scientific and technical dimensions of oncology, to live by our oath to cure often, to comfort always.

For after all is said and done, what more is there to say? Teilhard de Chardin wrote: "Someday, after mastering winds, tides, and gravity, we shall harness, for God, the energy of Love, and then, for the second time in history, humanity will have discovered fire".

In the PSO, for our patients and their families, the fire is unextinguished.

Love heals. Love endures.

ELIZABETH Y. ARCELLANA-NUQUI, M.D.
Vice President & Overall Chairman
PSO 18th Annual Convention

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Jonathan A. Asprer, M.D.
Council Member & Co-Chairman, Scientific Program

Rafael S. Claudio, M.D.
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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

PRE-CONVENTION DINNER
October 24, 2002, Thursday

6:30 p.m., Garden Ballroom, EDSA Shangri-La

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Asklepios Paulinen Klinik, Wiesbaden Germany

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"Future Directions in Oncology"
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International Atomic Energy Agency

DAY 1 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2002

7.00 A.M. REGISTRATION
OPENING CEREMONIES

Keynote Address
Mr. Francis J. Kong
President, Business Matters Values Found'n.

INDUCTION OF NEW FELLOWS

OPENING OF EXHIBITS

10:30 Coffee Break (Fresenius Kabi-Enteral)

11:00 AM - 12:00 NN SESSION I - ONCOLOGIC EMERGENCIES

"Spinal Cord Compression"
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Consultant, Philippine Orthopedic Center

"Superior Vena Caval Syndrome
Ramon Santos-Ocampo, M.D.
Section Head, CT Scan, Capitol Medical Center

"Malignant GI Obstruction"
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Chairman: Rafael S. Claudio, M.D.
Co-chair: Jackson D. Soriano, M.D.

12:00 NN - 1:30 PM Lunch symposium - Palawan Room (Pfizer)

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Business Meeting - Palawan Room

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM SESSION II - TRADITIONAL VALUES: CARING & COPING

"Psychosocial Issues" (Adding Life to Days)
Antonio C. Sison, M.D.
Psychiatry, Psycho-Oncology
Capitol Medical Center

"Spiritual Issues"
(Finding Meaning in Suffering)
Father Catalino Arevalo, S.J.
Loyola House of Studies

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Chairman: Teodoro P. Nuguid, M.D.
Co-chair: Jose G. Beltran, M.D.

3:30 PM *Coffee Break (Fresenius Kabi - Enteral)*

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM SESSION III - NEW FRONTIERS IN DIAGNOSIS

"Human Genome"
Manluz Mojica-Henshaw, M.D., Ph.D.
Molecular Biology, UP College of Medicine

"Predictive Assays Using DNA Microarrays"
Bhadrasain Vikram, M.D.
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"Medical Informatics"
Alvin B. Marcelo, M.D.
Associate Professor, UPCM

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

OPEN FORUM:
Chairman: Romulo S. De Villa, M.D.
Co-chair: Elizabeth Y. Arcellana-Nuqui, M.D.

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7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Boracay 1 & 2 (HCD Abbott)
"Nutrition in Cancer Patients"
Luisito O. Llido, M.D.
Head Nutrition, St. Luke's Medical Center

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Isla Ballroom 2 & 3
PSO-Unilab Research Forum

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM SESSION IV - NEW FRONTIERS IN MANAGEMENT

"Chemoradiation"
Domingo E. Ganzon, M.D.
Radiation Oncology, Makati Medical Center

"Chemoprevention"
Valorie F. Chan, M.D.
Medical Oncology, UST Hospital

"Novel Chemotherapeutic Strategies"
Frank M. Benthin, M.D
Surgical Oncology, Asklepios Paulinen Klinik, Wiesbaden Germany

OPEN FORUM:
Chairman: Genara M. Limson, M.D.
Co-chair: Divina B. Esteban, M.D.

11:00 AM - 12:00 NN (GlaxoSmithKline)
Tumor Board/ Quiz Show

12:00 NN - 1:30 PM (GlaxoSmithKline)
"Empiric Therapy for Infections in the Immunocompromised Host"
Vilma M. Co, M.D.
Treasurer, Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Inc.

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM SESSION V - NEW FRONTIERS IN MANAGEMENT

"Diagnosis and Treatment of Hypercoagulability in Cancer Patients"
Rosalio P. Torres, M.D.
Hematology Oncology, Makati Medical Center

"Clinical Uses of Hemopoietic Growth Factors"
Victor Ernesto D. Yosuico, M.D.
Medical Oncology, UP-PGH

OPEN FORUM:
Chairman: Lolita L. Cua, M.D.
Co-chair: Dennis M. Tudtud, M.D.

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM Coffee Break/ Exhibits

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM SESSION VI - TRADITIONAL VALUES IN MANAGEMENT

"Cancer Treatment in the Elderly"
Antonio H. Villalon, M.D.
PSO Past President

"Sequelae of Cancer Therapy in Children & Adolescents"
Julius A. Lecciones, M.D.
Pediatric Oncology, Makati Medical Center

OPEN FORUM:
Chairman: Aproniano C. Tangco, M.D.
Co-chair: Ma. Luz Del Rosario, M.D.

Overall Session Coordinator:
Domingo E. Ganzon, M.D.

5:00 p.m. Closing Ceremonies and Induction of New Officers
(Yamanouchi Philippines)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Abbott Lab Diagnostics Division, Asiamed, AstraZeneca, Aventis Pharma, Baxter Oncology, B.Braun, Biomedis, Inc., Boie Takeda, Bristol Myers Squibb, Cathay Drug, Dabur Oncology, Eli-Lilly, Fernando Medical Enterprises, Inc., Fresenius Kabi - Enteral, Fresenius Kabi - Parenteral, GlaxoSmithKline, GPME Incorporated/ BrainLAB, HCD Abbott, Goodwill Bookstore, Janssen Pharmaceutica, Linden Suites, Marketlink Pharmachemie, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Morishita Seggs, Natrapharm, Nestle Philippines, Novartis Healthcare, Organon Philippines, Pascual Laboratories, Pfizer, Inc., PFM Medical Asia Pacific, Pharmacia, Roche Philippines, Sanofi Philippines, Schering Philippines Corporation, Schering Plough Biotech Division, Scicione, United Laboratories, Inc., Vita Health Philippines Inc., Wyeth Philippines, Yamanouchi Philippines, Yamato Tradeline Network Inc.

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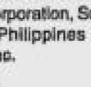

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Executive Secretary

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Secretary

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Imelda ready to retire if . . .

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos is ready to retire from politics but on one condition. She wants the government to stop the "injustice" being done to her family.

Ms Marcos was referring to the string of criminal and administrative cases filed by the government against her and her family.

The flamboyant Marcos widow said she could still serve and help the people in her private capacity.

"I have come to a point in my life that I don't have to run just to serve the Filipino people," she told the INQUIRER on Sunday night.

"My plan is always to give, to serve and to love my country. That is my obsession and it falls to my philosophy; that only things you keep are those you can give away," she added.

The former first lady, wearing a long black gown with a duck-shape brooch-studded with diamonds, said that if the Macapagal administration stops committing injustice to the Marcos and Romualdez families, then she might reconsider her plan to retire from politics.

"When you say you go to politics, the ultimate end of politics is justice. So long as there is injustice committed against us, I'll be there," she told the INQUIRER.

Ms Marcos ran for president in 1992 but lost to Fidel Ramos, a retired military general who had served as Army chief and then Armed Forces vice chief of staff when her husband, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was in power.

In 1998, the former first lady also sought the presidency but dropped the bid midway. She then opted to support then Vice President Joseph Estrada, a known Marcos ally. Estrada won the election but was ousted from power in January 2000 by the People Power II following the jueteng scandal that rocked his administration.

In the 2001 elections, Ms Marcos campaigned for her brother, Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr. and nephews Alfred and Carlos, the mayor's sons.

Only Mayor Romualdez won. His son, Alfredo Romualdez Jr., however, lost his reelection bid as Leyte's first district representative. His brother Caloy lost his bid as representative for the province's second district.

Hundreds of cases were filed against the Marcos family, including their cronies. They were believed to have plundered the country's economy when the late strongman was in power.

"The government should stop doing this injustice to us. For 17 years, they relentlessly charged the Marcos family of all sort of cases. But what did we get in return? No convictions," she said.

Ms Marcos cited her acquittal in a New York federal court in 1991 and at the Supreme Court a few years back as proofs that the charges filed against her family were politically motivated.

Her non-convictions, she added, only meant that the family was innocent and did not commit any wrong doing during their 20-year-rule.

"All of these are useless and wasteful exercise," she said.

Marcos was in the city upon the invitation of Mayor Romualdez to grace a "barrio fiesta," held at the Kanhuraw Convention Center in the city.

The affair was part of the celebration of the 58th Leyte Gulf Landings Anniversary last Oct. 20. It was attended by city officials, employees and barangay officials.

Joining her were her brother, former Leyte Gov. Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez and sister Conchita Yap. It was the first public appearance of the siblings in the city after a long time.

Traders assured of safety after Iloilo kidnapping

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Police and government officials in Western Visayas have assured the safety of businessmen following the kidnapping of a scion of a Chinese-Filipino businessman in Iloilo City last week.

In a meeting of the regional peace and order council (RPOC) yesterday, the officials also urged local executives and the community to be involved in preventing kidnappings and criminality in the region.

"We condemn the kidnapping," said Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores, RPOC chair.

He said the RPOC decided to involve local executives in the fight against kidnapping and criminality "because this is the concern of the whole region and not only the police."

On Oct. 15. at least three unidentified men abducted 14-year-old Jefferson Tan as he was leaving the Iloilo Central Commercial High School inside the Ledesco Village in La Paz District here.

The suspects took over the victim's Honda CRV along with his driver and a classmate. The three were taken to Barangay Tacas in Jaro District where Tan was transferred to another vehicle. His classmate and driver were released unharmed.

The boy is the younger of two sons of businessman Joseph Tan who owns several businesses here including distribution of electrical equipment.

The kidnappers reportedly asked for P50 million in ransom. The boy has not been released as of yesterday.

Police authorities refused to provide details on the kidnapping. They earlier urged media outlets here for a news blackout but news of the kidnapping was prematurely released on Friday.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas said he tried contacting the victim's father but the family refused to cooperate with the police and local officials.

"We have no feedback on the situation of the child," he said.

The kidnapping is the first since the kidnap slaying of Bacolod City-based businesswoman Roberta Cokin in 1995.

But Miraflores said the kidnapping is an "isolated case" and allayed fears that kidnap gangs are targeting more victims in the region.

But Treñas said the kidnapping disturbed the business community here. "The business community is very concerned, impatient and does not want this to happen again," Treñas told reporters here.

Measures are being put up to prevent more kidnappings including the setting up of mobile checkpoints in different areas of the city, he said.

Batangas power plants, refinery beef up security

BATANGAS CITY—Power plants and the oil refinery in this city have tightened security as police declared red alert status in Batangas province, where most of the power plants supplying power to the Luzon grid are located.

Batangas police director Sr. Supt. Rolando Lorenzo said police at the Shell refinery in Barangay Tabangao, the Ilijan Power Plant in Barangay Ilijan, the First Gas Power Corp. and the San Lorenzo Power Plants in Barangay Sta. Rita Kalsada, in this city, have doubled the security with more policemen in civilian clothes roving day and night.

"We've also enforced a round-the-clock checkpoint composed of 10 police officers and three civilians in the power plants and oil refinery in the city," Lorenzo said. "The police in towns with oil refineries and power plants have also been ordered to go on round-the-clock patrols," he added.

Tight security has also been enforced in shopping malls and bus stations in Batangas and Lipa cities, he said.

The red alert status has been raised since Sunday, according to Lorenzo, after intelligence reports said New People's Army bombers are targeting the power plants and oil refineries in Batangas.

Also threatened by bomb attacks were the Caltex refinery in San Pascual town, five kilometers from the city, the Petron refinery in Mabini town, and the National Power Corp.'s coal-fired power plant in Calaca.

Shell Refinery Administration, Personnel and Security manager Jun Espina said the government is now providing security for the company but still they have increased their security guards to over 50 who continuously rove the oil refinery facility on a 24-hour basis. Shell refinery in Barangay Tabangao is one of the oil refineries of Pilipinas-Shell Petroleum Corp.

"Our company has increased the number of security guards assigned in all escape routes, gates, and around the entire facility," Espina said. "Right now, we have just had a meeting with Talim, a local NGO in the barangay that proposed a round-the-clock *ronda* (civilian guard) force around the facility."

First Gas Power Corp. deputy project manager Ramon Araneta said security in the power plant has also been increased since the bombings in Mindanao and Metro Manila. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ONCOLOGISTS, INC. 1964

Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.
18th ANNUAL CONVENTION
October 25-26, 2002 • Edsa Shangri-la Plaza Hotel
Theme: "New Frontiers and Traditional Values in Cancer Care"

Messages

Warmest felicitations to the officers and members of The Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc on your 18th Annual Convention.

Your organization's efforts help our oncologists keep abreast of the current trends and updates in the profession, particularly in the care of cancer patients and cancer prevention. I encourage your efforts to upgrade your expertise in this specialized field of medicine and to intensify your efforts in ensuring a healthy Filipino nation.

The theme "New Frontiers and Traditional Values in Cancer Care", shows your determination to provide the highest quality of medical care and treatment for cancer patients. A healthy citizenry is essential in our efforts to win the war on poverty. Let us intensify on work to improve our people's quality of life as a hallmark of a strong Republic.

MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Greetings and warm welcome to the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Oncologists on the holding of their 18th Annual Convention with the theme, "New Frontiers and Traditional Values in Cancer Care."

I would like to commend the distinguished members of your organization for their steadfast support and commitment to initiatives towards improving the health of our cancer patients. The Department of Health acknowledges your society's role in developing standards of care for your specific patient group and in providing them with the much-needed healthcare services.

This gathering is essential, as it has been organized to provide updates to cancer experts and health practitioners to keep them abreast with the latest trends in the treatment and management of cancer in our country. I am hoping that this conference can advocated an increased public education on prevention and control of these dreaded diseases.

Let us increase awareness by focusing on the benefits of practicing traditional values of indulging in "healthy lifestyle" as means of preventing cancer and other lifestyle-related diseases.

I hope that all these efforts will ultimately redound towards attaining our vision of a strong Philippine republic composed of healthy, empowered, productive and progressive Filipinos.

Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary of Health

Welcome to the 18th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.

The convention theme "New Frontiers and Traditional Values in Cancer Care", focuses on the advances in diagnosis, treatment, and management of cancer and the continuing impact of traditional values in this field. In this modern era of rapid technological growth and astounding developments in cancer research, we are confronted with the issues related to psychosocial and spiritual concerns which directly or indirectly affect the way we manage our patients. These issues are inevitable and we are left with no choice but to resolve them and apply them in some situations.

This year's convention promises to be more exciting as evidenced by a fully-packed programme. As in the past, there will be lectures by local and foreign experts, various symposia, and the usual social functions. Surely, there will be more learning and fun in store for everyone.

In behalf of the officers and the organizing committee, I would like to thank you for your never-ending support to our society. This convention is a fitting highlight to our year-long collaboration and solidarity as partners in this specialty that we cherish.

MCalaguas, MD
MIRIAM JOY C. CALAGUAS, M.D.
President, Philippine Society of Oncologists, Inc.

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Surgical Oncology, Asklepios Paulinen Klinik, Wiesbaden Germany

OPEN FORUM:
Chairman: Genara M. Limson, M.D.
Co-chair: Divina B. Esteban, M.D.

11:00 AM - 12:00 NN (GlaxoSmithKline)
Tumor Board/ Quiz Show

12:00 NN - 1:30 PM (GlaxoSmithKline)
"Empiric Therapy for Infections in the Immunocompromised Host"
Wilma M. Co, M.D.
Treasurer, Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Inc.

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM SESSION V - NEW FRONTIERS IN MANAGEMENT

"Diagnosis and Treatment of Hypercoagulability in Cancer Patients"
Rosario P. Torres, M.D.
Hematology Oncology, Makati Medical Center

"Clinical Uses of Hemopoietic Growth Factors"
Victor Ernesto D. Yosuico, M.D.
Medical Oncology, UP-PGH

OPEN FORUM
Chairman: Lolita L. Cua, M.D.
Co-chair: Dennis M. Tudtud, M.D.

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM Coffee Break/ Exhibits

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM SESSION VI - TRADITIONAL VALUES IN MANAGEMENT

"Cancer Treatment in the Elderly"
Antonio H. Villalon, M.D.
PSO Past President

"Sequelae of Cancer Therapy in Children & Adolescents"
Julius A. Lecciones, M.D.
Pediatric Oncology, Makati Medical Center

OPEN FORUM:
Chairman: Aproniano C. Tangco, M.D.
Co-chair: Ma. Luz Del Rosario, M.D.

Overall Session Coordinator:
Domingo E. Ganzon, M.D.

5:00 p.m. Closing Ceremonies and Induction of New Officers
(Yamanouchi Philippines)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Abbott Lab Diagnostics Division, Asiamed, AstraZeneca, Aventis Pharma, Baxter Oncology, B Braun, Biomedis, Inc., Boie Takeda, Bristol Myers Squibb, Cathay Drug, Dabur Oncology, Eli-Lilly, Fernando Medical Enterprises, Inc., Fresenius Kabi - Enteral, Fresenius Kabi - Parenteral, GlaxoSmithKline, GPME Incorporated/ BrainLAB, HCD Abbott, Goodwill Bookstore, Janssen Pharmaceutica, Linden Suites, Marketlink Pharmachemie, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Morishita Seggs, Natrapharm, Nestle Philippines, Novartis Healthcare, Organon Philippines, Pascual Laboratories, Pfizer, Inc., PFM Medical Asia Pacific, Pharmacia, Roche Philippines, Sanofi Philippines, Schering Philippines Corporation, Schering Plough Biotech Division, Sciclone, United Laboratories, Inc., Vita Health Philippines Inc., Wyeth Philippines, Yamanouchi Philippines, Yamato Tradeline Network Inc.

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Cristy C. Amamangion
Executive Secretary

Wang T. Cruz
Secretary

Zambo blast victims look for 'guardian angel'

By Julie S. Alipala
Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Who was the man on a motorcycle who helped bring the victims of Sunday's explosion to the hospital?

Blast victims he brought to the hospital wanted to thank him, but nobody seemed to know the man.

"This guy was carrying me. He was on a motorcycle. He said he was bringing me to the hospital. I was motionless and I can't see his face because it was dark," said Elizabeth Pia, resident of Barangay Sta. Maria.

The man, whom she wants to call a "guardian angel," assured her not to worry. Pia, 38, said the man excused himself after taking her to the hospital. "He told me he was going back to get the other victims," she said.

Gratitude

Pia said she wanted to thank the man for saving her life.

Jari Malagapo, 13, said he was lying on his back when an unidentified male touched his wounded cheek.

"He asked me what happened and then he said: 'It was fortunate that not many were wounded,'" Malagapo said.

He said the man then told him to "backride" while another victim was seated on the front seat.

Like Pia, he failed to thank his savior.

Domiciano Malagapo, Jari's father, said he saw how the motorcycle-riding man tried his best to ferry as many victims to the hospital.

"I saw him giving handkerchief and a piece of cloth or sometimes checking the wounds. He picked the victims one at a time using his motorcycle," the elder Malagapo said in Chavacano.

Heroism

Chief Inspector Antonio Clarito, operations chief of the Zamboanga City police, said they also received reports about the man's heroism.

"He was like an angel to the victims. He became the center of appreciation and admiration but nobody knew him," Clarito told the INQUIRER.

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"He was guarding Fort Pilar but he found time to talk with me. He sat right next to me as if shielding me from any eventuality. Then the explosion occurred. He saved my life," Nurting said.

ANNOUNCING
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MRS. TERESITA D. AZUCENA, 46
General Santos City, South Cotabato
Guardian of Children's Nutrition
• Initiated lactation management training for personnel and post-delivery and pre-discharge breastfeeding sessions for patients that resulted in certification as "Mother and Baby-Friendly Hospital" for her hospital and reduction in the number of malnourished children and the infant mortality rate in the community
• Partnered with the Department of Health to create the Lingap Program to help improve the nutritional status of children 0-5 years old in Barangay San Jose
• Initiated and supervised a housing project for the indigent and homeless which she now continues to implement through the family adoption scheme for IMAP members in her chapter

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Champion of Sanitation
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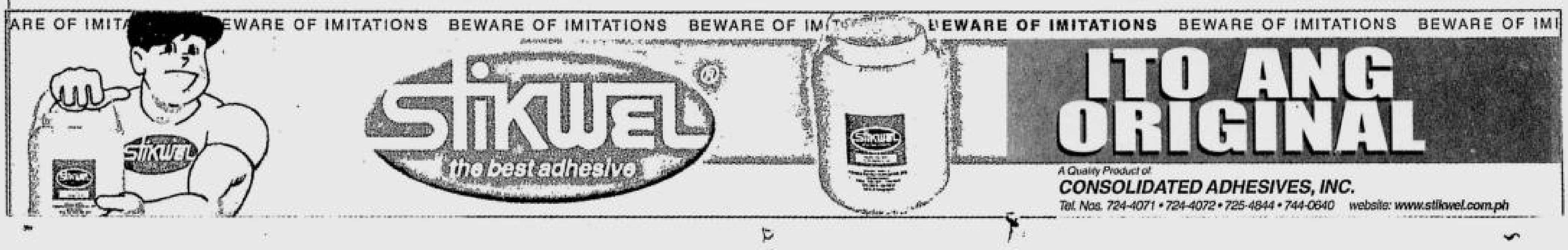

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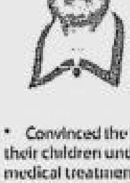

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INQUIRER*Northern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◉ *Bureau Chief* **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Three Rs restore confidence of Aetas

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

AETA tribal leader Carling Dumulot recalls those days when, upon descending to the lowlands, he and his village mates were so ashamed of themselves they would feel they were at the lowest rung of humanity.

"We were really shy then and we had a very low self-esteem," said Dumulot. "We felt we were the lowest class of people because people in the lowland towns would laugh at us, saying, 'the monkeys have come down again.'"

Worse, Dumulot and his village mates could not get a fair price for their farm products. "We really didn't know much about business because we couldn't read and count and traders would take advantage of this, exchanging with us a kilogram of salt for 100 bunches of bananas," he said.

The 44-year-old father of eight from Botolan, Zambales was among several indigenous peoples representatives nationwide who trooped to Baguio City recently to launch the Indigenous Peoples Month.

Sponsored by the Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, the Indigenous Peoples Month seeks to draw public attention to the problems and concerns of more than 100 indigenous groups in the country.

Wearing only a g-string, a pair of rubber sandals, and a pig's teeth pendant, Dumulot, barely five feet tall, was not the usual shy Aeta as he displayed self-confidence during a press conference and a symposium.

Dumulot credits the three Rs (reading, 'riting, 'rithmethic) for his self-confidence. Dumulot and some of the 65,000 Aeta population surrounding Mt. Pinatubo in Central Luzon have benefited from the "functional literacy" program of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, a Catholic sisters congregation.

The literacy program, which began in the 1970s, didn't only enable Dumulot and his people to read, write and count. The program also enabled them to realize how blessed they were.

"We also came to realize how self-sufficient we were, especially before Mt. Pinatubo erupted (in 1991)," he said. "Would you believe that all that we lacked were just salt and matches?"

Dumulot was not exaggerating. They could hunt freshwater fish from their rivers and wild boars and vegetables and fruits from the forests. Aside from their top-quality bananas, they also had the best rice, whose aroma, according to Dumulot, could fill the air so much so that one's neighbor could smell it while it was being cooked.

The three Rs also enabled them to become more confident in negotiating with traders for a fair price for their bananas. "Nakatulong talaga nang malaki noong natutunan namin ang 'keri-keri' (The technique of 'carry-carry' helped us a great deal)," said Dumulot, referring to the mathematical operation when one has to carry or add the remainder of what he is multiplying or adding.

Dumulot said he and his village mates could now dictate the price for their bananas and other products, especially after they also organized 12 cooperatives.

SOME 65,000 Aeta population surrounding Mt. Pinatubo in Central Luzon have benefited from the "functional literacy" program of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, a Catholic sisters congregation. FILE PHOTO

Trying times

But there were trying times for the Aeta folk. One was during the martial law reign of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos from September 1972 to February 1986. Aetas undergoing literacy and leadership training then were suspected as rebels, said Dumulot.

Another challenge to the Aetas was the influx into their communities of various religious groups, all promising heaven and salvation and condemning the Aetas' own way of worship as "works of the devil."

Fortunately, the Aetas prevailed over these religious groups, which, Dumulot said, tended to divide their communities. "We also worship, look up to and always thank Apo Namalyari (the Aetas' term for Supreme Being), who protects us day and night," he said.

Another difficult time for the Aetas was when Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991. Ten times relocated, the Aetas, said Dumulot, had found living in evacuation centers often humiliating.

"Imagine, some people would say we preferred living in evacuation centers so we could eat sardines," Dumulot said, adding that they could not even stand life in the evacuation centers where they had to make do with NFA (National Food Authority) rice.

Hope for deliverance

Tried and tested many times, the Aetas found another hope for further deliverance after government issued a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC) officially recognizing over 22,400 hectares in Botolan as Aeta domain in 1999.

Inspired and challenged to run their own lives after the CADC issuance, the Aetas strengthened their Lakas (Lubos na Alyansa ng mga Katutubong Ayta ng Zambales or Alliance of Indigenous Aetas in Zambales) organization, said Dumulot.

Through Lakas, the Aetas have organized their community members according to age brackets and sectors.

Headed by a chair, a committee, for example, handles community members ages five to nine; another committee for ages 10-14; one for ages 15-20; one for women over 20; another for men over 20; and still another for senior citizens. The chair for each committee comes from each category.

Each committee settles conflicts that may arise among committee members. "This is why you don't see conflicts reaching the courts, not even the Barangay Lupong Tagapamayapa (village court of justice)," said Dumulot.

Adan: 'We train warriors who are ethical'

THE FORMER spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines patiently waded through a day-long summit yesterday at Camp Aguinaldo, where society stakeholders of the 104-year-old Philippine Military Academy discussed the institution's future. Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, a member of PMA Class 1972, assumed the reins of the academy in April this year with an ear close to the ground, after noting the sharp rise in the Corps of Cadets' academic casualties since 1990. He initiated the PMA Stakeholders' Summit, where voices from the business community, the academe and civil society helped determine the fate of PMA's century-old philosophies, its extremely erudite courses, and the state of the 21st century Filipino cadet nine years since female cadets were accepted to Asia's premier military institution. Bureau Chief Rolando Fernandez and Baguio correspondent Vincent Cabreza sat on Sunday with General Adan for coffee and some insights into the future PMA. Excerpts:

Q: What prompted your administration to seek the insights of the academy's stakeholders in public society, business and the academe?

A: West Point (The United States Military Academy) is where we took off. Our uniform, cross belt, colors, white pants . . . these are West Point. *Iyong chaku*, that's West Point. There's no association at all with Capt. Manuel Sityar of the Spanish Army.

So in connection with our 104th foundation anniversary, the most important highlight is the stakeholders' conference —the first of its kind. *Kasi, ang* question *ko sa* curriculum review is 'Are we relevant?' This (question) is coupled with the fact that our curriculum *ngayon* is seemingly overloaded. Two hundred thirty seven units in four years, *samantalang sa* CHED (Commission on Higher Education) mandated curriculum in four years is only 144 units. So you note that cadets work doubly hard. They are undergoing military training, physically exhaustive training in a very regimented life. *Pagkatapos* they are also college students. So our casualty rate—our attrition rate—is so high.

So after four years, the number of cadets who entered is down by 40 percent . . . That is draining the government's coffers. We spend half a million pesos per cadet, each year. That's P2 million for each cadet in four years.

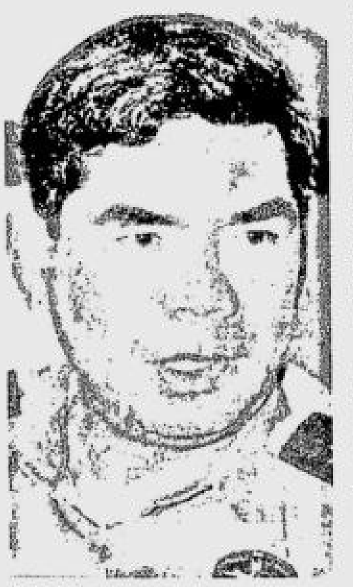
Q: When did PMA last review its curriculum?

A: Back in 1997. This was when the tri-service (curriculum) was introduced. *Kasi ang nangyayari ngayon* (Because what happens at present), *iyong* (those) Army courses, Navy courses and aviation courses are taken in the academy . . . so when (a cadet) graduates, he or she is no longer required to take the very basic courses. But that adds to his load. If we look at the load, 237 units, and we would like the cadets to (be given) more time (like the normal college pacing), it can take him at least four-and-a-half years *sa dami ng pinapaaral na kadete* (with all the cadets the PMA is training).

Q: Do other military institutions follow the same grueling pace for their cadets?

A: West Point (has) something like 170 (units in their curriculum). So for this (summit), we are now asking our stakeholders (for answers to our dilemma) . . . Each speaker (will) talk about his or her perception about PMA as an institution, and its graduates in the military and in civilian life.

PMAyers are now all over in government, or have entered politics. Former Pres. (Fidel) Ramos is considered a PMAyer (Editor's note: Ramos graduated from West Point in 1950). We had a PMAyer who vied for the presidency, retired Gen. (Renato) de Villa. We have Senators (Rodolfo) Biazon, Gringo Honasan and (Panfilo) Lacson, and of course we have people in the government or who were in the government like . . . Rene Valencia who became head of the Social Security System.



ADAN TOOTS SOBERANO

In other words, PMAyers are not just in the military. I presume there are now more than 4,000 (PMA alumni members), and more than half of them have retired from the military and have joined the government.

Q: Does the training in PMA logically lead servicemen to political or governmental careers?

A: It's a natural trend. As PMAyers grow (out of the military service), they opt to enter civilian enterprises since they have the right education, the right attitude to succeed, the right training. They are dedicated workers. They have this natural leadership ingredient that is (required) by employers.

We have several (alumni) in top corporate positions like Globe Telecommunications, Smart Communications Inc. and Camp John Hay Development Corp. They are top leaders there. This summit seeks public perceptions about (PMA graduates): Are we on the right track? Because we do have controversial (alumni members). Every time there is a change in government, PMAyers are involved, whether Edsa 1 or Edsa 2. It had been evident in Edsa 2 that the tilt of the military was crucial.

Q: But this means your summit is a bit of a gamble. PMA must expect brickbats from the public stakeholders, precisely because of this perception that the military is engaged in changing governments

A: Yes, that's the purpose, to get the sentiments of our sectors in society. That's why there is only one military speaker, (Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin) Defensor . . . The rest are civilians who have something to say. We might not like what we hear but this is not back patting. I am opening this because we (in the military) want to know if we are on the right track. This is not just for the PMA. The result of this dialogue will serve as a basis for policy making, for civil-military relations at the higher level. This will also be a mirror for all alumni . . . look at themselves . . . for the alumni to reflect.

Q: But PMA and its alumni became controversial only recently when PMAyers began to run Cabinet posts in government. They also assumed the status of celebrities after Edsa 1. Prior to Edsa 1, did PMAyers assume top posts in the Marcos or post-World War II governments?

A: Well, PMAyers have always been (in government). However, because of Edsa 1, which had a large military participation, we are not saying we were majority there and that we had a crucial role in the change of government, the (former low-key) roles played by PMAyers surfaced. It is a fact that PMAyers were behind the ouster of (the late strongman Ferdinand) Marcos. These were PMAyers with principles who thought that the Marcos regime had to go. It was their principles that moved them to unite fellow PMAyers to say, 'We must do something.'

Q: Unlike regular universities, there must be more public pressure for PMA graduates to succeed?

]A: And rightly so, because they are investments of government . . . Out of 7,600 examinees last September, only 1,700 passed, but we only get something like 200 (cadets) . . . We hear about hazing and maltreatment. For the past several months since I assumed office, we have had no serious case of hazing reported. Our system is good.

Cadets are beginning to realize that true leadership is about getting respected, not feared. That is the kind of leadership we want developed.

Q: How are PMA cadets faring today?

A: PMA discovered that there used to be more candidates who come from good schools . . . What we are saying is that good schools give (cadets) more chances of succeeding in the academy because of academic conventions. *Kitang-kita sa English lang*. Cadets who come from good schools can communicate. The cadets who come from the rural schools have difficulty expressing themselves.

Q: Is that a reflection of our future military leaders? Did it influence present leaders?

A: We must also realize that the concept of warfare and its increments have changed. Technology has come in . . . We cannot get people who do not understand modern war equipment. We are not in the age of the Garand rifle or the machine gun. We are talking about sophisticated communications systems, or computer-run weapon systems.

That's the training we want (to give our cadets) . . . to recognize civilian authorities, to follow the Constitution . . . We are training warriors, killers but they must follow a strict code of ethics. We don't want to train leaders who come into the service and then will have a mind of their own, who will say they can do this, they can do that.

HOME TOWN *Snapshots*

Marketing Ifugao's 'tinawon'

Tourists can go home next year with lockets or pouches filled with P100-rice grains that are grown exclusively on the centuries-old Ifugao rice terraces.

That's **President Macapagal-Arroyo's** new campaign to finance the restoration of the endangered World Heritage site, after she abolished the agency overseeing its development, according to **Renato Diaz**, presidential assistant for North Luzon affairs.

Called *tinawon* (literally, once a year), the Ifugao rice terrace crop is a richly textured variety harvested annually for ritual and domestic consumption. Each ancient terrace used to grow the Ifugaos' own high-value rice.

Diaz said tourism officials could easily package small *tinawon* grains as keepsake without affecting domestic rice consumption in Ifugao.

Civic leaders from Ifugao are studying the marketing value of *tinawon* as an alternative economic campaign for the terraces, after Ms Macapagal scrapped the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force this year as part of a budget deficit measure.

Carmelita Mondiguing, the former tourism official who helped draw United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization recognition for the Ifugao terraces, said *tinawon* is still the most abundant resource growing on the rice terraces outside Banaue, like the towns of Mayoyao and Hungduan.

She said *tinawon* had been marketed to visitors by the Philippine Tourism Authority in the last decade but low investment interest in Ifugao rice prevented farmers from profiting from this potentially high-valued crop.

A kilogram of *tinawon* sells for as high as P60. *Vincent Cabreza*

Baguio's pride

A BAGUIO-born professional car racer, who was prohibited from driving around his school's compound 13 years ago, was named one of the most outstanding citizens (sports category) during Baguio City's 93rd founding anniversary last month.

At 31, **Carlos "Primero" Anton** is no longer sulking and has let bygones be bygones, especially after he learned that he is the youngest among the 10 awardees.

The school official never imagined that Anton, whom he banned from driving around the Brent School campus, would carve a niche not in the field of journalism, the course he took up in college, but in car racing.

"The guy had a personal grudge on me and felt I would never amount to much. He knew it would hurt me most not to be able to drive on campus because I loved cars so much," Anton said.

His unforgettable high school experience, however, propelled him to excel in his favorite yet dangerous sport. After clinching titles in slalom (1991-1992), karting (1995-1996), rally cross (1996) and circuit racing (1998-2001), he received commendations from the city council in 1995, 1998 and 2001.

Despite his triumphs, he never stops driving. He won back-to-back titles in the Philippine Junior Touring Car Championships (2000-2001) and Subic Production Car Championship (2000-2001). Two years ago, he was cited the Formula Toyota rookie of the year.

In July this year, Anton was part of the six-member Philippine Marlboro Adventure team that went to the Czech Republic. *Gobleth Moulic*

Spanish lawyer says he's in jail over Ang case

RAMON COLLADO: The complainant is threatened, arrested and detained.

DANTE ANG: To file civil and moral damages.

JESS YUSON

From page A1

civil and moral damages," Ang said.

The ad said that Ang had told the BI that deferring "Collado's deportation would help the government prosecute a liar and a criminal."

Seed Capital, a firm owned by Roberto Guevara, had sought the help of Ang in raising P250 million to buy 60 percent of the bank six months ago.

Last year, Guevara was involved in another controversy, this time involving the PEACe bonds. Guevara helped Code-NGO conceptualize the 10-year zero coupon bonds and sold the idea to the Department of Finance. Code-NGO earned a net profit of P1.4 billion after it submitted a winning bid of P10.16 billion for the bonds without using its own money.

Collado was picked up by immigration agents at the Prama office on the 15th floor of Antel 2000 Corporate Center in Makati City following threats from different people that he would be harmed if he did not leave the country immediately.

Domingo said the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Association (PLRA), a government agency, requested the BI to cancel Collado's special resident retiree's visa for his illegal employment in Prama, prompting her to issue a mission order for Collado's arrest.

But Collado said that he was not considered an employee by Prama because he was not receiving any compensation for his work in the foundation, which is also seeking from the PLRA the return of around P60 million to Prama.

The PLRA board of trustees and Domingo, however, bucked the order of the Makati Regional Trial Court for the PLRA to give back Prama's money.

Former PLRA chief Vernette Umali-Paco, and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura—all incumbent members of the PLRA board—were cited for contempt by Makati Judge Reinato Quilala and fined P30,000 each on June 24.

"I feel totally betrayed. I have brought millions of dollars into this country. We took care of street children and built shelters for the elderly," Collado said.

During the Ramos administration, the government enticed foreign retirees into the country by giving them special resident visas and other perks. In exchange, each foreign retiree was required to pay a one-time fee of between $50,000 and $75,000 to enjoy permanent resident status. Prama and PLRA are fighting over the funds.

Collado said he wanted to preserve his honor by not leaving the country. "Honor means to me a clean, fair and transparent case because I now appear as the crook," Collado said. But he said he did not feel safe inside the BI jail.

Photo oops! …

From page A1

not be the same person" as the Abu Pula listed, and that based on the latest report, he was known as Abu Tagalog. Besides, Ebdane added, the photograph of Abu Pula in the order of battle showed someone older than the man arrested.

"Some mistakes do happen during operations, and I am taking responsibility for the actions of my men," the PNP chief said in a statement.

"Stricter measures of verification have been implemented and are continuously being reviewed. The hazards of intelligence-gathering include the possibility of mistaken identities, and we are making sure that there are less chances for this to happen."

Gumbahale, 21, was arrested last week in a Muslim community in Taguig.

At the PNP briefing Saturday during which Gumbahale was presented to reporters, Ms Macapagal described him as "one of the top eight Abu Sayyaf leaders with a P5-million prize for his capture"—an announcement that merited the headlines in other newspapers.

It was the latest in a continuing series of gaffes by the President resulting from misinformation by her officials.

On Monday, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez admitted that there had been a blunder regarding Gumbahale.

But he pointed out that Ms Macapagal was not at fault: "If there was an error, maybe the President could not be faulted because the presentation was made to her. So we are going to look for clarification as to this man's identity because we cannot afford to prosecute a person under a wrong identity."

The arrested man was brought to the Department of Justice on Monday for questioning on his possible involvement in the Metro Manila bombings on Dec. 30, 2000, and the abduction of teachers and students in Lamitan, Basilan.

An intelligence official said that so far, a witness had identified Gumbahale as one of those who served as guards of the captive teachers.

Many Abus

Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee confirmed that the man presented to reporters Saturday was not Abu Pula or "Dr. Abu," whose real name is Umbra Jumdail.

"As reported by the director of the DOJ Witness Protection Program, we have confirmed that this Abu Tagalog is not the same as Dr. Abu, (who is) known to be a leader of the ASG," Teehankee said.

Teehankee also said Abu Tagalog was implicated in the kidnapping incidents in Sinangkapan and Tumahubong in Basilan in March 2000.

Ebdane said the police erred on Gumbahale's identity but not on his involvement in the major kidnapping sprees that the Abu Sayyaf had pulled off since 1999.

"Our information, which came from an insider, confirms that he is a member of the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group), and this can be verified from group pictures of the deceased (Abu Sayyaf spokesperson) Abu Sabaya," Ebdane said.

Police intelligence agents arrested Gumbahale at the Maharlika Village in Taguig on Thursday in connection with the abduction of 21 tourists, mostly foreigners, from the Sipadan island-resort in Malaysia two years ago.

Authorities had said that during tactical interrogation, he admitted being a henchman of Aldam Tilao alias Abu Sabaya, and taking part in the Rizal Day bombings in 2000 that killed 23 persons.

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, director of the PNP Intelligence Group, yesterday said that while Gumbahale might not be the top Abu Sayyaf leader in the military's order of battle, he was still considered "a big catch" because of his being a henchman of Sabaya.

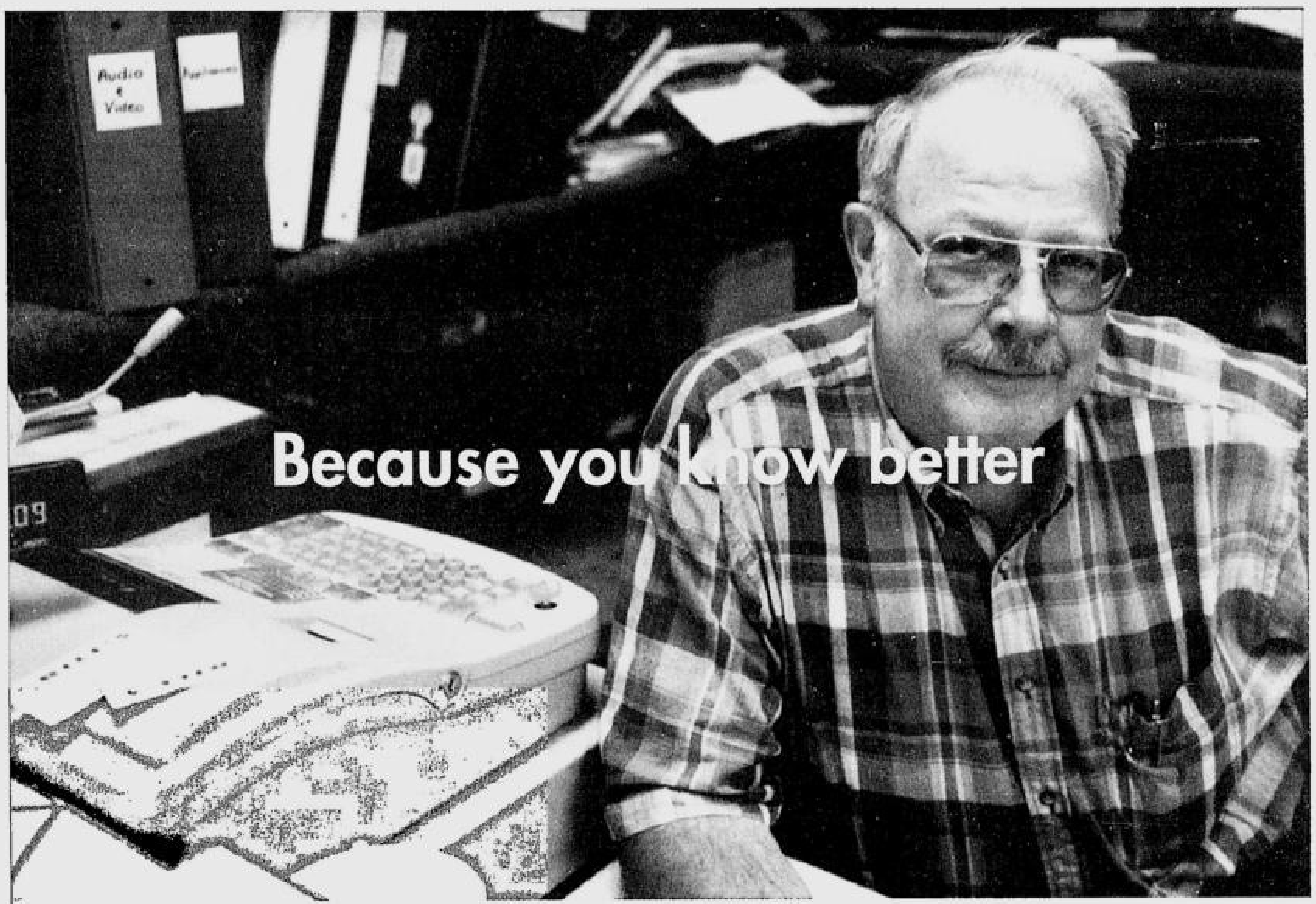
Caringal said Gumbahale had once been photographed or videotaped carrying a recoilless rifle behind Sabaya in the jungles.

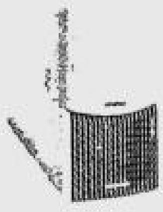
"There's no inconsistency there. He's still a big catch," Caringal said in an earlier interview, adding that Gumbahale also admitted participation in other Abu Sayyaf kidnappings aside from that in Sipadan.

Gumbahale has also been tagged in the beheading of seven enlisted men and officers of the Philippine Army and two civilian hostages whose families had supposedly failed to pay ransom.

Gaffes

Of the memorable gaffes that the President has had to endure, the first was in Sarangani on July 26 when she announced that Faisal Marohombsar, supposed kidnap leader who had earlier escaped from jail, was back in the hands of authorities. She had to retract her statement later that day. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*





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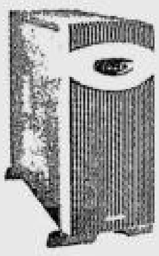

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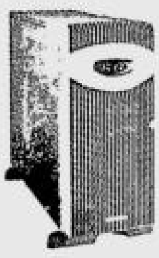

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Luna owners: Stop sale of 'Parisian Life'

MUSE of the Katipunan, widow of Andres Bonifacio, Gregoria de Jesus who married the composer of the Katipunan battle hymn.

From page A1

crash course in Philippine history.

The sisters, still active and speaking in elegant English, recalled how their parents—Julio Nakpil and Gregoria de Jesus, widow of Andres Bonifacio—used to tell them how precious the painting was that used to dominate their ancestral home in Quiapo.

"The man in the background (Bautista) is your uncle talking to Jose Rizal and the painter himself, Juan Luna," the sisters remembered their father telling them when they were growing up in the ancestral house built by Bautista himself in 1863. Bautista was married to Petrona, Nakpil's sister.

The painting (also known as "Interior d'un Cafe") is now on sale in Hong Kong, one of the featured works of art in Christie's second auction of Southeast Asian pictures. The first one, held several months ago, was rated by the auction house itself as an "overwhelming success."

The second auction also includes works by other Filipinos, such as National Artist Vicente Manansala and Anita Magsaysay-Ho. Luna's painting is Lot No. 62.

The original owner of the painting was Bautista himself, who received it from Luna. Bautista housed it in his home on the old Barbosa Street in Quiapo, where successive generations of his family also lived.

"It has always been there," Mercedes recalled.

Because the Bautista couple was childless, the house and Bautista's collection of paintings—including his Luna—were then handed down as "properties of the Nakpil family" when Bautista died in 1928.

The Nakpil women were reluctant to discuss the cause of their distress—apparently because the root was a long-standing family-feud.

De Lange said the painting was only "borrowed" from the ancestral home by their cousin Angel, son of Julio's brother Ramon.

Julio and Ramon lived with their families in the Bautista-Nakpil antique house, together with their respective families.

Julio and Gregoria, who married in 1893, had 12 children, only six of whom survived to adulthood.

Of the six, only Francisca, Mercedes and Caridad Nakpil Santos Viola are still living.

Ramon was married to Enriqueta Sancho. Their son Angel Nakpil ended up staying longer in the ancestral home when Francisca and her other siblings had their own families and lived somewhere else.

Angel married the writer and historian Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, with whom he had two children, Ramon II and Liza. Gemma Cruz-Araneta, former Miss International, is Guerrero-Nakpil's daughter by her first marriage.

The painting, reports have it, was sold as the "inheritance" of Ramon II.

De Lange said the painting should remain in the ancestral home or with the National Museum where it would be protected as part of the Filipino heritage.

De Lange's daughter, Marie de Lange-Mallari, said the family felt badly about the sale.

"We all feel sad about it because we don't know who's going to buy it," she said, adding that the rare Luna would be lost to Filipinos forever if it were bought by a foreigner.

Mallari showed the INQUIRER the vacant spot on the wall of the 139-year-old Bautista-Nakpil house where the painting used to hang.

Bahay ...

From page A1

the use of the Revolutionary Government.

The Nakpil-Bautista house is a primary example of the fusion of the *bahay na bato* with a western style, in this case, the Viennese Sezession style of the early 20th century. It is now a museum.

3 tons of explosive chemicals seized in Lucena

From page A1

ular frequency of purchase(s) from unidentified buyers from the Bondoc Peninsula area."

The area is known as a haven of communist insurgents in Quezon province.

Four suspects

Siongco identified the arrested suspects as Eleuterio Letran, 40, van helper and resident of Taguig City; Jaime Cabrero, 22, van helper, and Jaime Belen, 19, both residents of 62 Village St., Makati City; and Ferdinand Fabro, 31, driver and resident of Makati City.

The suspects pointed to one Virginia Letran of Mafel Marketing, with office address in Taguig City, as the cargo owner.

The suspects are now facing charges of violating Sec. 8 of PD 1144 (which created the Fertilizer and Pesticide authority and abolishing the fertilizer industry),

"But as soon as we establish the connection of the suspects with the terrorist group, more charges will be coming," Broso said.

According to police investigators, the suspects presented a "permit to purchase and move explosive/explosive ingredients" from the Firearms and Explosive Division of Camp Crame dated Sept. 23.

It was signed by one Sr. Supt. Jerry Barrias.

But the document, investigators said, was only a photocopy and "has no legal value, particularly with the big volume of the confiscated cargo."

"Besides, such huge quantity of explosive materials should be highly secured and properly escorted by government authorities while in transit," Sr. Insp. Antonio Maglinao, leader of the arresting team, told the INQUIRER.

The document also revealed that the cargo originated from Bataan and was supposed to be delivered to Manila.

High impact

"The volume of explosive materials that has been recovered by the police is enough to flatten the whole city of Lucena if placed in several strategic spots within the city," Capt. Ramon Rosario, formerly assigned to the explosives and ordnance unit in Camp Aguinaldo and now posted here as deputy chief of the civil relations group for Southern Luzon, told the INQUIRER.

He added: "The chemical, if mixed with other combustible components, would result in a very powerful homemade explosive."

He declined to disclose the procedure for security reasons.

But Rosario said that a can of biscuits, if loaded with these combustible ingredients and used as a land mine, would be enough to toss an armored personnel carrier six feet into the air.

Officials did not discount the possibility that communist rebels were behind the attempted smuggling of explosives.

When asked if the seized explosive materials could find its way to the hands of terror bombers now holding Metro Manila in fear, Broso replied: "That is not a remote possibility." But he gave the assurance that the police and the military and the rest of the government forces were ready to thwart any more destabilizing attempts."

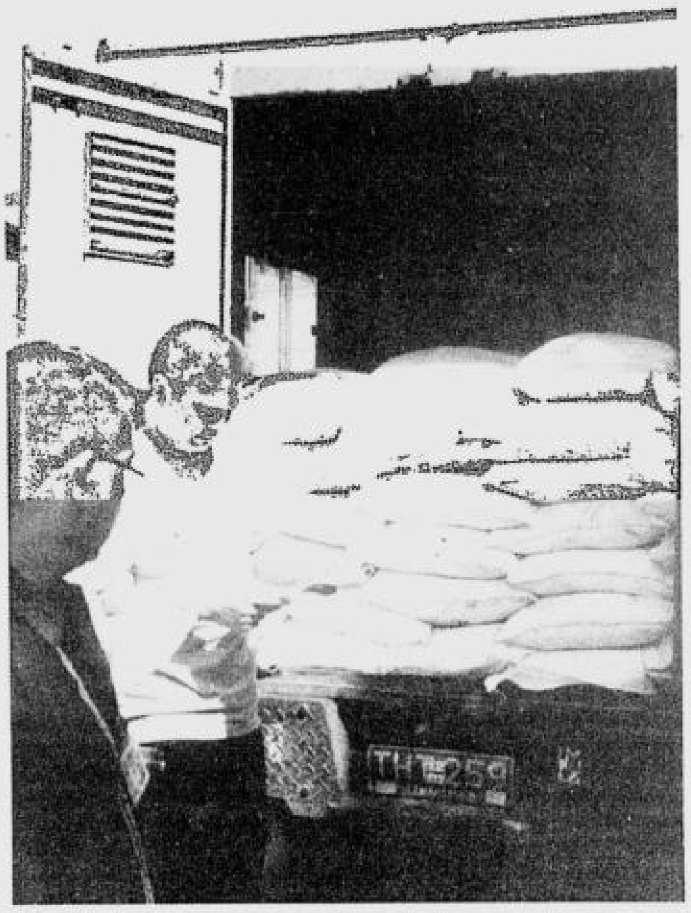
"These explosive materials were part of the elaborate plan of blowing up vital public and private installations in pursuit of their terroristic activities," he said.

Broso also revealed that based on their interrogation of the suspects, the driver said that some of the cargo was to be delivered to Rosario, Batangas.

"But the driver did not give the exact location. He just told us that somebody would just meet them in Rosario," he said.

Broso said the NPA rebels who attacked the military post in San Narciso, Quezon, two weeks ago also used a nitrate-based homemade explosive.

The explosive materials are now in the custody of the Solcom Explosives and Ordnance Division. The police estimated the cargo to be worth P40,000. *With reports from Martin Marfil, AP, AFP*



TRUCKLOAD of ammonium nitrate ostensibly used to manufacture fertilizer but which could be transformed into high-impact explosives is confiscated by authorities and inspected by Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. SONNY MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Inquirer bags 5 CMMA awards

From page A1

ing, entertainment and photography.

Donna Cueto's exposé on Irene Marcos Araneta's attempt to move Marcos funds abroad received the CMMA for Best News Coverage, while the award for Best Investigative Report went to the INQUIRER's I-Team, for its maiden story last year on the state of kidnapping in the country.

Editor John Nery, I-Team members Ceres Doyo and Jerry Esplanada and I-Team contributor Nancy Carvajal shared the award.

Social scientist and broadcast journalist Randy David won the Best Opinion Column award for his Public Life column, which appears every Sunday.

Inday Badiday's Saturday column, Face to Face, won the CMMA for Best Entertainment Column.

The INQUIRER also won for Best News Photograph, for Edwin Bacasmas' "Laharlandia." Ben Moses Ebreo's "Tribal Goes Hi-Tech" also won a special citation for news photography.

The CMMA, an annual tradition since 1978, is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Manila as a way of honoring communicators.

Kidnap victims

In her acceptance speech, Doyo said she wished to share the award with the kidnap victims. She noted that two of the cases profiled in the "Kidnap 2001" series had already been solved.

The three finalists in the investigative reporting category were also INQUIRER stories: Jerry Esplanada was nominated for "Guns for Hire in Ilocos" and Tonette Orejas and Russel Arador of the INQUIRER's Central Luzon desk were nominated for "Dante's Purgatory," their special report on various anomalies linked to Bernabe "Kumander Dante" Buscayno.

All three finalists in news coverage were also INQUIRER stories: the Lamitan siege, reported by various writers, and Grace Albasin and Butch Enerio's report on the destruction of Camiguin island, were also nominated.

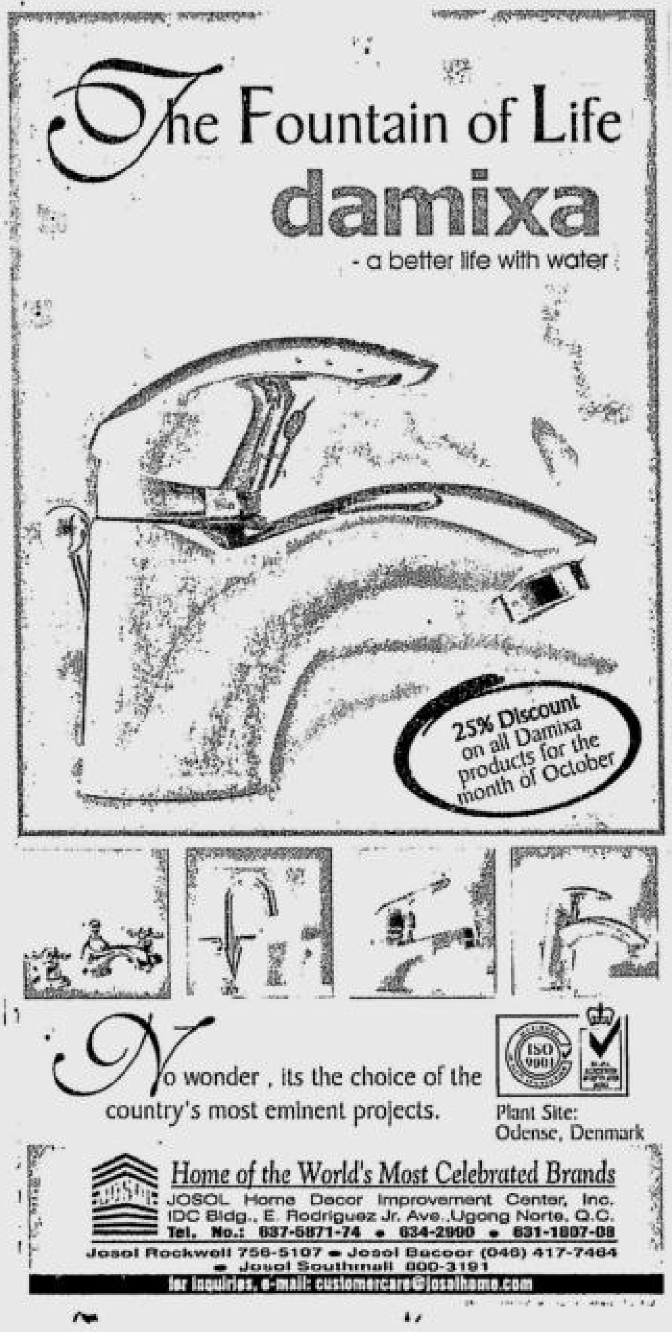
The INQUIRER's business features editor, Margie Espino, also received a special citation for Best Children's Magazine for Baby Magazine, which she serves as editor.

Other winners

Philippine Star's Bong Osorio won the Best Business Column award for Commonness, while OMF Literature's Steve Benintedi's Power Mark won the award for best adult comics strip. "Gawad para kay Nanay" by Rudy Ocampo Perey won the award for Best Children's Comic Strip.

Other INQUIRER finalists included Eline Santos (Best Short Story, Adult) and Leila Salaverria (Best Special Feature).

As of presstime, awards for radio, TV and advertising were still being handed out.



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Ka Bel irons out barong

From page A1

could finish ironing my *barong* before they cut off the electricity and they allowed me," Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran told the INQUIRER.

The partly-list representative arrived at the House yesterday wearing his last good and crisp barong tagalog that he had ironed himself.

Meralco cut off the power to his home in Barangay Gao on Commonwealth, Quezon City, because he refused to pay the purchased power adjustment (PPA) charge in his electricity bill. He has joined several groups in protesting the allegedly illegal PPA charge.

The labor leader turned congressman has been going to the Meralco Commonwealth branch office only to pay the basic charge in his bill.

Meralco has refused to accept his partial payments. Beltran's bill since April has reached P14,602.26.

Offers to pay

Beltran revealed that Rex Tantiongco, the former chair of the Energy Regulatory Board and a godfather at one of his children's wedding, offered to pay his electric bill "in the name of friendship." But he did not accept because of his stand against the PPA.

A statement from Beltran's office said neighbors of the Bayan Muna representative had warned the Meralco personnel that they would not allow them to confiscate the electric meter of the Beltran household.

"I told the linemen that I would write a letter to Meralco to protest what they did," Beltran said in Filipino.

In a statement, he said that individuals with connections to Meralco had been urging him to pay his bills in full.

"What was ridiculous, however, was these individuals have even offered to give me the means with which to pay my bills, and I was under the impression that the money was coming from Meralco itself," he said.

The party-list representative said he and his 10-member household would just have to do without electricity in the house. The head of the house is determined not to pay, whatever happens.

Beltran said the family would use kerosene lamps and battery-charged lighting devices at night. He is worried though for his three young grandchildren who may not sleep well without electric fans.

Laundromat

As for his four barong tagalogs, Beltran said he would take these to the laundromat for washing and ironing.

It is a good thing Congress is taking a two-week break starting tomorrow or he'll be hard-pressed to make sure his barongs are fit to wear in Congress, he said.

Automatic pricing adjustment

Consumers have decried the PPA as anomalous. It comprised about half of consumers electricity bills until July when the PPA was reduced following an order from Malacañang.

The PPA is an automatic pricing adjustment mechanism, which power distributors use to pass on to customers the cost of electricity bought from power generators.

According to Renato Reyes Jr., convenor of the People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power) and spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Beltran received his disconnection notice early last week.

The congressman was given from Oct. 15 to 19 to settle his account, but he still refused to do so. Instead, members of the Power and Kilusang Mayo Uno, along with Beltran's neighbors, put up barricades to prevent any attempt by Meralco to cut off Beltran's electric supply.

But when Meralco linemen arrived at 9 a.m. yesterday, Beltran decided to allow them to carry out the disconnection to avoid any commotion, his daughter Ofelia told the INQUIRER.

"Those linemen are workers themselves. Ka Bel's (Beltran) enemy are not them, but Meralco," Ofelia said.

Meralco: Lawmaker should uphold law

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MERALCO vice president Elpi Cuna said the firm had to cut service to Beltran's household because not doing so would discriminate against other customers who fail to pay their bills.

"We do this to other people, why can't we do it to him?" Cuna said.

He added: "Beltran cannot be an exception. He is a lawmaker, he should be the first one to uphold the rule of law."

The Meralco official reiterated the the utility's rates—including the PPA—are approved and monitored by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

"The PPA is revenue neutral as far as Meralco is concerned," Cuna said.

RANDY HOMILLADA

INSTEAD of cursing the darkness, Rosario, wife of Rep. Crispin Beltran, lights a candle and carries on with her chores in their home in Commonwealth, Quezon City.

Time-Life Books stands behind Mark Paragua, the youngest Filipino Grandmaster candidate

And he is a child protege of Time-Life Home Learning Program

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"Time-Life Books has more than made up for Mark's time spent out of school. The values and interests these books have developed in him are priceless" says Ric Paragua, father of Mark.

Tournaments Scheduled:
- World Chess Olympiad, Oct. 25 - Nov. 11, 2002 (Bled, Slovenia)
- World U-18 Chess Championship, Nov. 15 - 24, 2002 (Crete, Greece)
- World Junior Chess Championship, Dec. 8 - 22, 2002 (Calicut, India)
- Five (5) Other International Tournaments Jan. - May 2003 (Europe)

Achievements:
- Champion-youngest ever winner 2000 Torino Open winning over 9 GMs
- Champion-2001 Mondariz Open with 7 GMs playing obtain GM result
- Champion-1997 New York Open U-22 youngest ever topping 250+ players
- Winner-Brilliancy Game Prize @ age 11 (1995 Linares Open) 23rd Place-among 180+ players which include 43 GMs & 40+ IMs obtained IM norm at Linares Open
- GM candidate @17, will campaign in Europe to complete GM result to obtain GM title
- Youngest qualifier for 2002 Chess Olympiad (3rd in National Open)
- 2002 National Junior Champion

"Youngest" Records:
- Youngest Filipino GM candidate @ age17
- Youngest Filipino IM @ age 15
- Youngest Filipino NM @ age 12

World Championship Results:
- World Champion: 1998 World U-14, Rapids, Paris, France
- 3rd Place: 2000 World U-16 Chess Championship, Oropesa, Spain
- Tied for 3rd Place: 1994 World U-10 Chess Championship Szeged, Hungary
- Tied for 3rd Place: 1996 World U-12 Chess Championship Menorca, Spain

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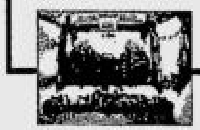

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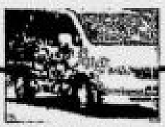

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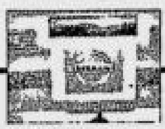

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3. To enter the draw, write down your name, address, age (as of September 20, 2002) and signature at the back of any empty pack of Mild Seven (regular or lights).
4. Only genuine and original Mild Seven flip top box packs - imported from Japan, purchased in the Philippines and bearing the Philippine Government health warning, excise stamp and with complete information requested in item 3, will be accepted as valid entries.
5. No photocopies or counterfeit Mild Seven packs will be allowed. Once submitted, all Mild Seven packs will become the property of JT International (Philippines), Inc.
6. Send your entries to: Wishcraft Creative Events, # 17 San Pablo Street, Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City, 1603 or drop it off at The Fort on November 8 till 12 mn
7. All entries must be received not later than November 8, 2002, 12 midnight. JT International (Philippines), Inc. and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, mutilated or late entries.
8. The draw will be held on November 9, 2002. Grand Prize to be drawn by Mild Seven Renault F1 driver Jenson Button in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative. **WINNERS SHOULD BE AT THE VENUE DURING THE DRAW.** The following prizes will be drawn:
   - 1 - Grand Prize of a 3-Day, 2-Night Trip for two to the Sepang F1 Circuit, Malaysia plus tickets to the Race Day only (includes airfare, travel taxes, hotel accommodations, and pocket money)
   - 7 - Mild Seven Renault F1 Racing Bags
   - 7 - Mild Seven Renault F1 Umbrellas
   - 7 - Mild Seven Renault F1 Jackets
9. Securing of travel documents (i.e. passport) shall be the responsibility of the winner. All travel-related taxes will be shouldered by JT International (Philippines), Inc.
10. The names of the winners will be published in two of the leading newspapers on November 17, 2002. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes.
11. Prizes will only be rewarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from publication of the winners, or notification of winners, whichever comes later, will be forfeited with the written approval of the DOH-BFAD.
12. In claiming a prize, the winner must present the notification telegram and two (2) original and valid identification documents (driver's license, passport, NBI clearance, birth certificate).
13. In case the winner fails to present the original and valid identification documents, the winner should present the following:
    - 13.1 A sworn affidavit executed by at least two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity; and
    - 13.2 Certification from the responsible Municipality/City Official verifying that he/she is a resident of the said municipality/city.
14. In cases where the winner, for justifiable reasons cannot personally claim his/her prize, he/she can send a proxy on his/her behalf. The proxy should present a letter of authorization duly signed for by the winner. This should be submitted with the notification telegram sent by JT International (Philippines),Inc. The proxy should also bring two (2) original and valid documents to prove his/her identity.
15. An entrant can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of a higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.
16. Prizes are not transferable or convertible to cash.
17. All decisions of JT International (Philippines), Inc. and its agencies are final and no objections will be entertained.
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Dokic drives away parents

LINZ, Austria–Fiery Yugoslav tennis star Jelena Dokic found herself at the centre of fresh controversy at the WTA tournament here when she refused to allow her parents into the players' area. The 19-year-old, who was runner-up here last year, took the decision after a family row with parents Damir and Liliana, APA news agency reported. *AFP*

COKE BLOCKING PATH

Red Bull begins new quest

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports Arena)*
5:30 p.m.-Alaska vs Shell
7:30 p.m.-Red Bull vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

BATANG Red Bull hopes to open the Selecta-PBA All-Filipino Cup the way it finished the mid-season conference as the Thunder face the Coca-Cola Tigers today at the Philsports Arena.

Successfully defending their Commissioner's Cup title against Talk N Text, the Thunder embark on their quest for a second straight conference crown beginning with the Tigers at the 7:30 p.m. mainer.

Alaska embraces national team swingman Kenneth Duremdes back into its arms as the Aces tackle the Chris Jackson-charged Shell Turbo Chargers in the other featured match at 5:30 p.m.

Jeffrey Cariaso and Rudy Hatfied will see action wearing the Tigers' jersey for the first time since being shipped from Tanduay during the pre-season.

Just like Duremdes and Jackson, Cariaso and Hatfield imparted their talent to the national squad, who suffered the ignominy of finishing fourth in the recently concluded 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

The Thunder, already formidable as they are, strengthened their roster further with the return of the 6-foot-9 Mick Pennisi, the 12th and last man in the PBA-backed national quintet.

Commissioner's Cup co-Finals MVP Davonn Harp and Jimwell Torion are expected to flash their new-found confidence for the Thunder along with Junthy Valenzuela, Willie Miller, Lordy Tugade and Pennisi.

The Tigers try to keep in step with sister squads San Miguel Beer and Purefoods, which both opened their year-end campaign in devastating fashion.

The Hotdogs, champions in the Governors Cup, dethroned the Barangay Ginebra Kings, 71-63, right after the defending champion Beermen clobbered the FedEx Express, 94-71, Sunday night.

Hatfield and Cariaso are expected to steal some precious minutes from rookie Leo Avenido, Ato Morano and Estong Ballesteros as they form the Tigers' nucleus together with Johnny Abarrientos, Poch Juinio and Rafi Reavis.

Shell, struggling in the previous two conferences with a pair of early eliminations, has to squeeze the best out of its troops if the Turbo Chargers entertain any thoughts of upstaging the Aces.

Since their dynasty-building scheme in the 90s, the Aces are always considered as serious contenders, a proven fact backed up by their Finals' stint in the Governors Cup and semifinal campaign last conference.

Modern venue provides added drama to WS tilt

By Steve Keating
Reuters Sportswriter

SAN FRANCISCO, California—The Anaheim Angels and San Francisco Giants are playing in the first wildcard World Series in Major League Baseball's 98-year history.

With the series moving up the California coast from Anaheim to San Francisco's Pac Bell Stadium for Games Three, Four and Five, the Fall Classic has been just that –a wild and woolly rollercoaster ride that has left fans of both teams perched on the edge of their seats.

In dramatic fashion, the Angels and Giants split the first two games, each team claiming a one-run victory in contests that featured plenty of fireworks at the plate.

It is the first time since 1979 that teams have split a pair of one-run games to open a World Series.

That year the Pittsburgh Pirates went on to edge the Baltimore Orioles in seven games and many expect the closely matched Angels and Giants to need the maximum seven too.

Anaheim's Rally Monkey will not make the trip north but Giants slugger Barry Bonds is looking forward to his return home Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) to the 41,500-seat Pac Bell Stadium, a privately owned $357 million state-of-the-art facility on the San Francisco waterfront with spectacular views of the Bay Bridge included in the price of a ticket.

"Home field means a lot," said Giants manager Dusty Baker, his team having swept a three-game interleague series from the Angels at Pac Bell last year. "I wish we were playing four in our place and three in theirs."

TNT denies P20-M salary for Woolpert

TALK N' Text officials yesterday denied reports that they have agreed to pay P20 million per year for their new coach, Paul Woolpert.

"We are guided by very strict budgets," said team manager Frankie Lim. "Management will never agree to hiring any coach, whether foreign or local, if his compensation grossly exceeds the levels paid to professional coaches locally."

Lim said that the basic compensation package of Woolpert is well within the salary range of local professional coaches, and in some instances even lower.

He also explained that similar to the contracts of other coaches in the PBA, Woolpert's contract contains bonus clauses based solely on the performance of the team.

"If the team doesn't perform well, the bonus clauses don't kick in," explained Lim.

Lim said that Talk N' Text management "shall abide by the laws governing the employment of foreigners in the country," and that the decision to hire a foreign coach "is in line with Talk N' Text's commitment to provide PBA fans with the best possible brand of basketball the Talk N' Text team is known for."

Becker faces tax evasion trial

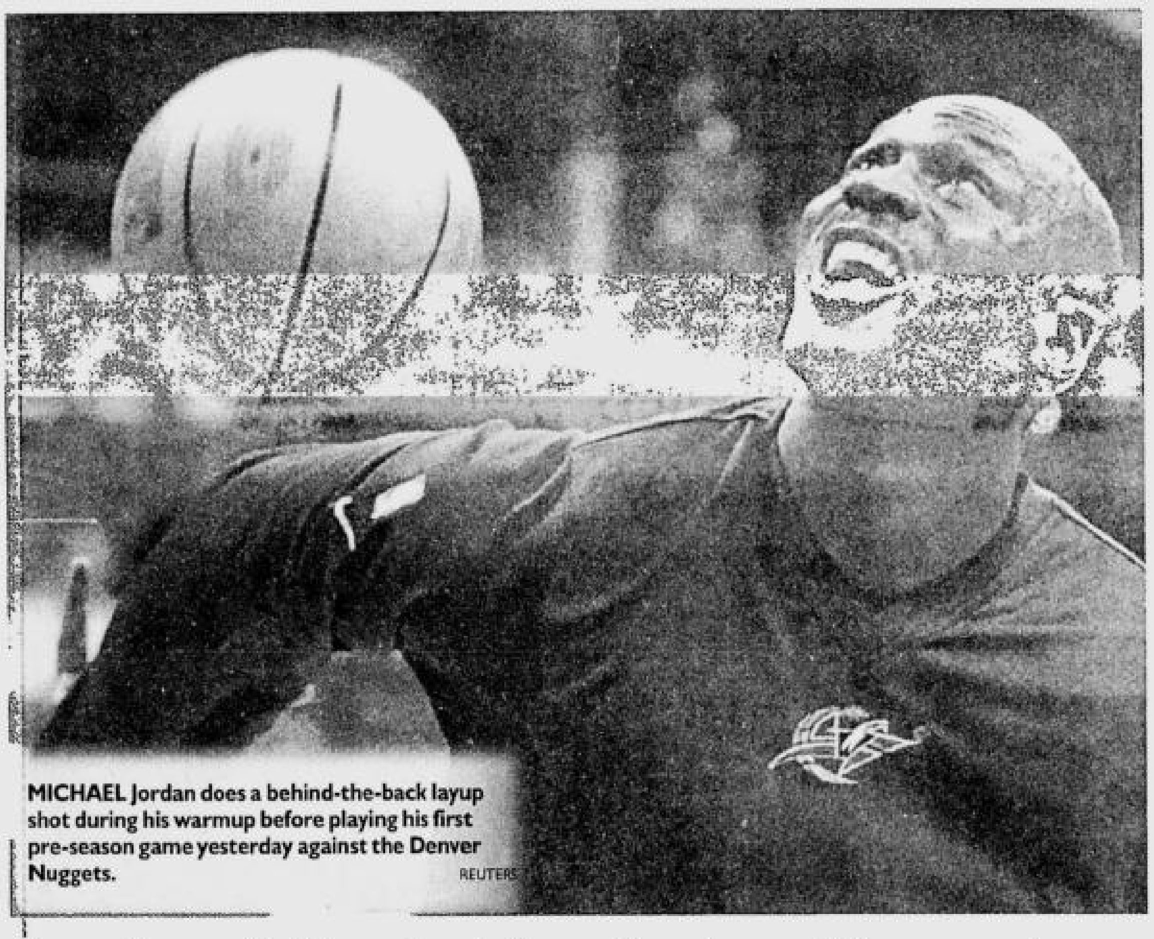
MUNICH, Germany—Boris Becker's trial for tax evasion, which begins in a Munich state court on Wednesday, could end with the fallen German tennis hero and three-time Wimbledon champion heading for jail.

The dispute over $5 million in German tax payments that state prosecutors say Becker failed to pay during his career by listing a bogus foreign address has put the spotlight on loopholes in the country's tax system and on its tenacious tax collectors.

The prosecution of Becker, once heralded for tennis achievements that helped West Germany to shake off post-war guilt, also highlights a controversial practice of many ultra rich German sportsmen who move abroad to avoid high taxes at home.

While the German public has until now shown sympathy for sporting tax exiles, a steep drop in tax revenues now squeezing the government into unpopular spending cuts may lead to a frostier attitude towards wealthy sports heroes living abroad.

Soccer's Franz Beckenbauer, tennis ace Michael Stich, Formula one drivers Michael Schumacher and his brother Ralf are just some of the leading Germans who long ago moved abroad to escape the comparatively high level of taxes in Germany. *Reuters*



MICHAEL Jordan does a behind-the-back layup shot during his warmup before playing his first pre-season game yesterday against the Denver Nuggets. REUTERS

Bataan hosts Ginebra-SMB

GAME SATURDAY
(Bataan People's Center)
5 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs San Miguel

BALANGA, Bataan—Barangay Ginebra clashes with San Miguel Beer on Saturday in the first-out-town game of the Selecta-PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Bataan People's Center here.

Eric Menk and the Kings lost on Sunday but things are expected to be different for the Ginebra Kings when they take on the defending champion Beermen in the 5 p.m. game.

Bataan Governor Ding Roman and George Alcantara will promote the game, a first for the province.

"It was a clamor of the people of Bataan," said Alcantara. "They really want to see a game this big, one that pits the defending champion against arguably one of the teams to beat in the tournament."

The San Miguel Beermen beat FedEx on Sunday, 94-71, with head coach Jong Uichico watching from the sidelines.

Jordan hits 1st basket vs Nuggets

By John Mossman
AP Sportswriter

DENVER— Michael Jordan made his preseason debut, hitting his first shot after coming off the bench during the second quarter of the Washington Wizards' game against the Denver Nuggets.

Jordan had sat out the Wizards' first five exhibitions to rest his surgically repaired right knee, but he was growing concerned about getting his timing back for the regular season.

"I moved well and I don't think I favored anything," Jordan said after the Wizards' 96-73 victory. "My timing was off, but it's going to take some time to adjust. I'm pleased."

Jordan entered the game with 7:13 left in the second quarter and played the rest of the period. He hit a turnaround jumper about three minutes after entering. He was 1-of-3 in the first half.

Jordan played the first 7:15 of the third quarter, scoring a team-high six points in the quarter, including a steal and fast-break layup on the other end.

He finished with eight points on 3-of-8 shooting with one rebound, one assist, one foul, two steals and two turnovers.

Coach Doug Collins said before the game that he planned to play Jordan about 14 minutes. Jordan also will play in Washington's final two exhibitions. The regular-season opener is Oct. 30 in Toronto.

Sprewell sues

NEW YORK–Latrell Sprewell already has his problems with the New York Knicks. Now he is taking on the New York Post. Before being disciplined again by the team, Sprewell said Monday he is suing the newspaper for $40 million over stories concerning how the eccentric forward broke his hand. Two weeks ago, the Knicks fined Sprewell $250,000 for failing to inform the team that he broke his right pinky on Sept. 20, two weeks before the start of training camp. The Post, citing two anonymous sources, reported Oct. 4 that Sprewell was injured when he hit a wall with his hand while on his yacht. *AFP*

Wang at home

LOS ANGELES—Wang Zhizhi is looking forward to the future with the Los Angeles Clippers and remains convinced his decision to focus on his National Basketball Association career is correct, although it provoked the ire of Chinese basketball officials. While compatriot Yao Ming was welcomed to Houston this week with the blessing of the China Basketball Association, Wang's deal with the Clippers was done without the input of Chinese officials. *AFP*

Ateneo enters 'Benefit' finals

ATENEO entered the Finals of the UAAP-NCAA Benefit Games with a masterful 91-82 triumph over University of the East yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

The only way the Blue Eagles can be dislodged from the Final Showdown is if the Stags win over them by more than 20 points at 4 p.m. tomorrow and UE wins again over St. Benilde at the Makati Coliseum.

Earlier, San Sebastian reiterated its dominance over St. Benilde this season as the Stags trounced their NCAA runner-up anew, 78-73.

The victory dashed the CSB Blazers hopes of salvaging a trip to the Best-of-Three Finals. The Stags led all the way from the first half but were seriously threatened in the third quarter when Jay Sagad led the Blazers on a 7-0 run to close in, 55-58, early in the fourth quarter.

Wesley Gonzales went to work early with six straight points in the fourth quarter as Ateneo continued to steamroll the opposition.

Gonzales scored 14 points in that quarter en route to a game-high 33 points. His four unanswered points gave the Eagles an 88-80 bulge with 31 ticks left.

Unbeaten Jaca to battle Thai pug

KEPT in the shadow of the much-ballyhoed Oct. 26 Manny Pacquiao-Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym world tight fight is the eight-round bout between unbeaten RP superbantam champion Jimrex Jaca and Thai Vihok Jockeygym.

However, Jaca, virtually unknown outside Cebu but adored by the hard-core boxing fans, assures he is out to prove that he is a total boxing attraction.

The unbeaten Jaca, managed by Rex "Wakee" Salud, sails for Davao today for his much-awaited bout with the Thai warhorse. He will be accompanied by co-manager Anol Jaca, trainer Cañete and assistant trainer Jun Bubuli.

Jaca, who has been used to fighting 12- and 10-rounders in the recent past, will find himself being relegated to an 8-rounder this time. But, his manager sees beyond the demotion.

"We hope that by being in the card, Jimrex is able to showcase his power and skills for the boxing world to see," said Salud. "It's not everyday that we have an event of this magnitude."

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Cuello brods in 6-way logjam for First Gentleman lead at Sherwoods

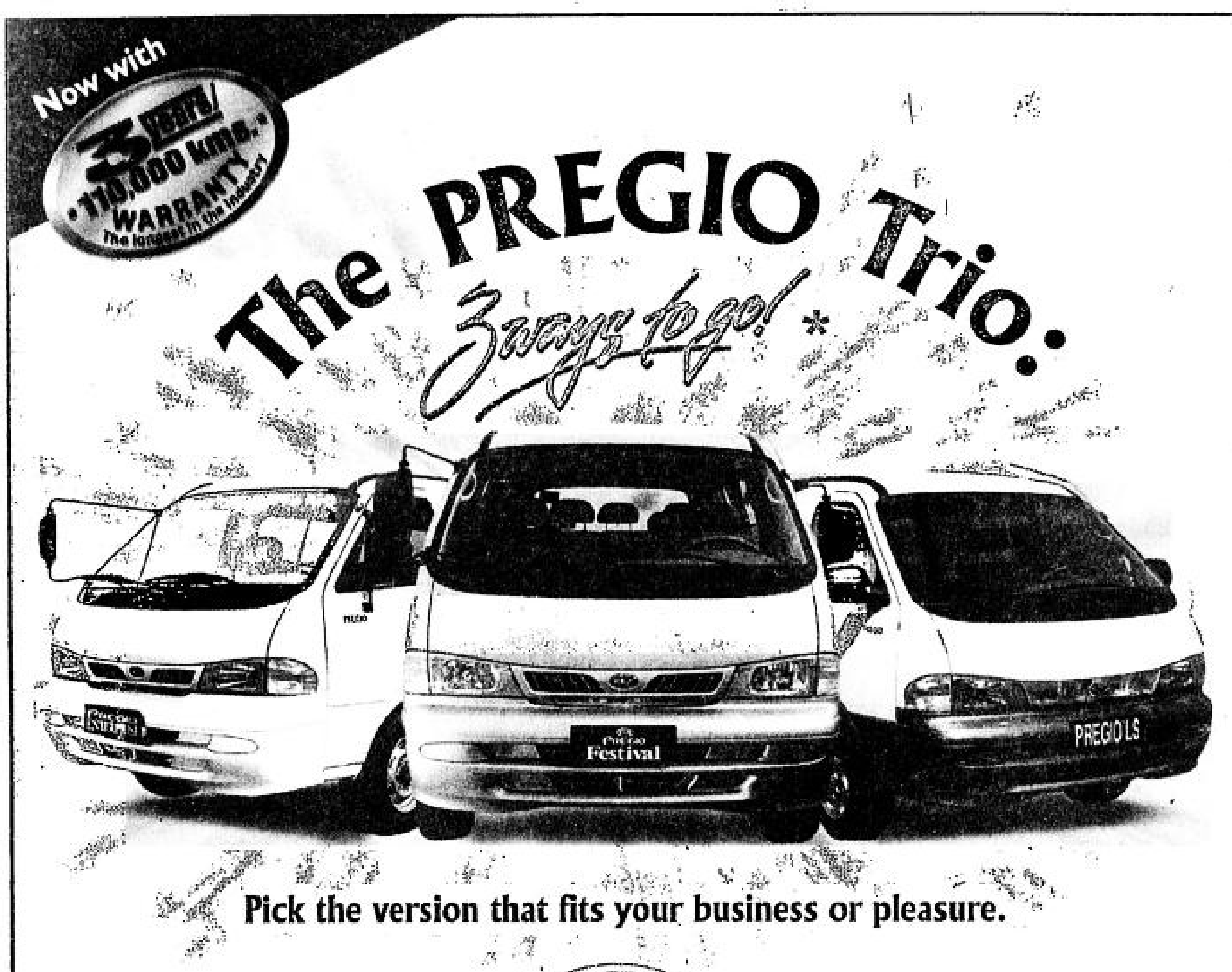
By Jong Arcano

STILL searching for the big stars their more prominent brothers have long found, Rodolfo Cuello Jr. and Peter Minoza made the perfect start to their breakthrough bid by figuring in a six-way tie for the lead after yesterday's opening round of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit second leg at Sherwood Hills.

Cuello's brother, Rodrigo, was actually there to provide him company in a crowded leaderboard that also included the tournament top seed Danny Zarate, Elmer Salvador and the tour's Mr. Surprise, Juanito Pagunsan.

All six turned in identical one-under-par 71s under the glistening Cavite sunshine and relatively tame winds that pushed them just a stroke ahead of the second group paced by Cassius Casas.

The Cuello family's surge was the day's big story as Rodolfo continued to show tremendous improvement with a round he kicked off with a splurge of four birdies from the second while Rodrigo couldn't be steadier than his three-birdie, two-bogey card.



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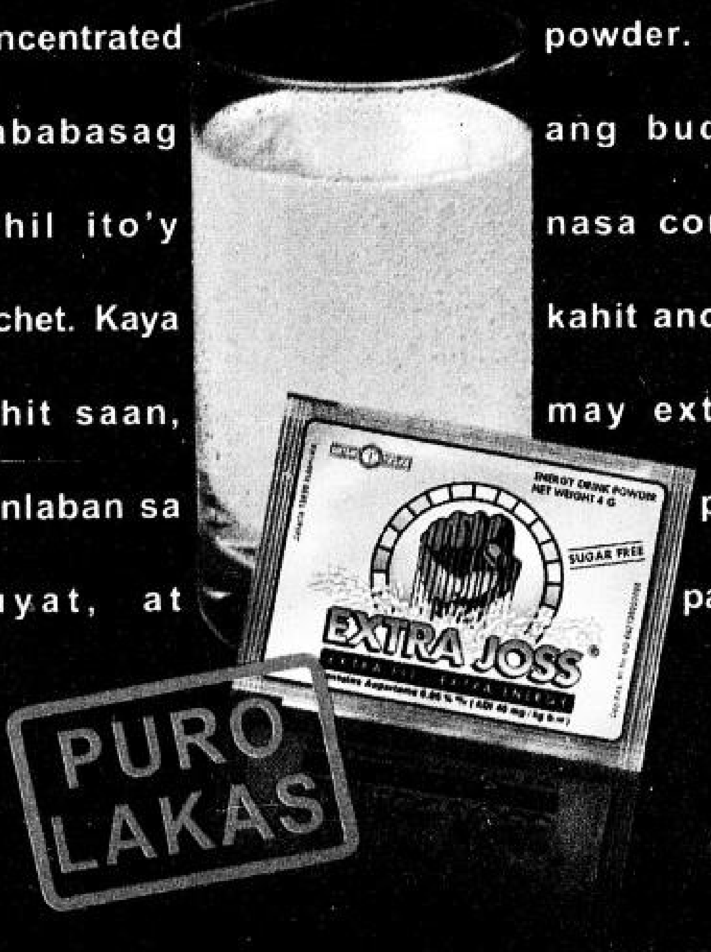

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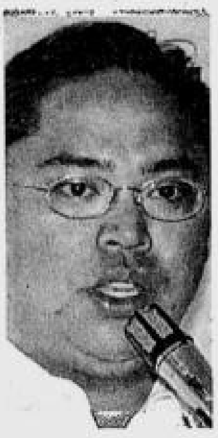
CONGRESS HEARING

Buhain: More funds for athletes



BUHAIN

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHAIR Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday said he welcomes the congressional hearing on the country's recent Asian Games stint.

Buhain also said he will use the forum to ask for more funds.

"This will be a very good opportunity for me to lobby for more assistance from Congress, which determines the amount of money given to the agency through the General Appropriations Act," said Buhain during the PSA Forum yesterday at the Holiday Inn.

Buhain said the peformance of the country's athletes in Asian was worth supporting.

"On behalf of the athletes, I will, of course, try to convince them (congressmen) to give us more funds which I think is justified by what happened in Busan," Buhain said.

The former star swimmer added that he's confident that the house committee on youth and sports will act in his favor considering that the country surpassed its performance four years ago.

Committee chair Monico Puentevella called for the 1 p.m. meet today to tackle the hits and misses during the Busan Asiad.

Puentevella said the committee would like to help PSC determine which national sports association will be given priority.

He also said that the PSC's budget will certainly be affected by Buhain's presentation today.

"We are now in the budget season and I personally would like to increase the PSC's budget or at least maintain it at a level it received this year," said Puentevella. "But they have to tell us first where they will spend the money."

The hearing will be "anything goes," added Puentevella, who singled out the performance of baseball and softball, which he said should not happen again in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games next year.

Though Puentevella said the hearing won't be a crackdown on the non-performing athletes, Buhain maintained that the PSC is drafting guidelines that would shape the career paths of athletes who have twice failed in the Asian Games.

Sports honchos shift focus on 2003 SEAG

By Roy Luarca

FORGET about Busan, think of Vietnam.

The country's top sports officials yesterday closed the book on the 14th Busan Asian Games and shifted their focus on the battle that lies ahead for the Filipino athlete: the 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam next year.

"We've only just begun," said Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain.

"I'm happy but not quite satisfied," said Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit.

They were the main guests at the resumption of the weekly PSA Forum yesterday at the Holiday Inn, where they officially wrapped up the country's campaign in Busan that netted 3 gold, 7 silver and 16 bronze medals.

It was the biggest medal haul for the Philippines in 16 years in the Asiad and the three-gold output matched the harvest during the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games where boxers Mansueto Velasco, Elias Recaido and Reynaldo Galido won.

Dayrit expressed confidence that the experience the Filipino athletes gained in competing in the Asian Games level will serve them well in the 22nd SEA Games.

Buhain, who was in his first Asian Games as PSC chair, said it's about time that local sports officials raise the level of standard for the Filipino athlete as he gears up for the Vietnam SEAG, the 2004 Athens Olympics and the 2005 Games in Manila.

Others who appeared in the forum sponsored by Red Bull, Pioneer Insurance and Agfa Color were Busan Asiad chief of mission Tom Carrasco and PSC commissioner Butch Ramirez.

Bets safety assured

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission has guaranteed the safety of athletes that would be participating in the Mindanao Games slated Oct. 27-31 in Cagayan De Oro City.

"There was no incident in the country that a sports event held in Mindanao had ever been attacked by terrorists," said PSC commissioner William Ramirez, who heads the organizing committee of the Mindanao Games.

The second edition of the Mindanao Games is expected to lure at least 4,000 athletes and coaches representing all the provinces in the region.

The recent spate of bombings in Zamboanga City, however, has raised fears concerning the safety of the athletes, which will see action in 18 disciplines.

"The Mindanao Games is not just about playing the games. It is a venue where Christians and Muslims can unite so I don't think people would ever want to spoil it," said Ramirez. *RL*

Guiao eyes All Filipino title

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WITHOUT much flair and fanfare, coach Yeng Guiao of Batang Red Bull is set to nail down this year's season-ending PBA All Filipino Conference and add the pro league's most prestigious title to the team's collection of basketball awards.

"I'm not losing sleep these days," said the 42-year-old Guiao, who recently steered the Photokina franchise to a second consecutive championship in the Commissioner's Cup. "The players are working very hard in practice now, in fact even harder than before. This is simply surprising for a team that has just retained its crown after seven hard-fought games."

Unlike before when Red Bull and some other teams (most recently, Sta. Lucia and Purefoods) yielded to pressure after winning a PBA championship, Guiao said he was not worried about his team being affected by pressure this time. "I know the pressure is too great and expectations are high after a team won a championship. The players know that too. That's why they are not letting their guard down because they have learned this bitter lesson from the past. They know how to handle success right now." Guiao explairied pressure could really affect a team's performance after winning a championship. "I have been in this situation before. *Pag naging* champion *ka, iba na ang nagiging dating,*" added Guiao, who also coached Swift Mighty Meaty to two PBA championships in 1992 and 1993. "Maybe the winning team celebrated too long."

On the ongoing All Filipino Cup, Guiao said the teams to watch are defending champion San Miguel Beer, Purefoods and Coca-Cola which Red Bull is playing in the main game of a twinbill tonight at the Philsports Arena.

* * *

SALUTE TO PAG-IBIG. I would like to commend engineer Bayani Garcia, assistant Regional Manager 1 and OIC of the Bulacan sub-regional office of the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund), and his staff for their efficient, fast and courteous service in dealing with the public. Special mention goes to Haydee Mamaril, Girlie Tulabut, Cherrie Marie Bulaong and cashier Malou Pagtalunan of the sub-regional branch in Tabang. And last but not least, to Thelma Tayag of the Register of Deeds in Meycauayan, Bulacan.

SPORTSWATCH

Ruling denies Mike Zhuhai crown

ZHUHAI, CHINA—The thunderous celebrations of the Zed-San Miguel Beer-MP Turbo Team Philippines came to an abrupt end when a controversial ruling after the final race in the Zhuhai International Circuit dropped the country's lone hope, Mike Potenciano, from the AF2000 Championship first overall position. Potenciano missed the title by 2 points when a jump-start penalty was given to the final race winner, Malaysian driver Zarith Alfian. Singapore's Dennis Lian inherited the race win and the AF2000 Title. Potenciano, driving superbly and patiently during the final two rounds, was in shock to learn that his title was stripped at the end of the race. "We are still in shock," said Mike after the race. "We were already celebrating like crazy in the pits when an official called our attention thathere was a jump start made by the winner and he will be excluded from first place.

LGBA championship round today

THE "LUZON Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 1st Stag Series 2002 6-Stag Derby" championship round sizzles at Mandaluyong Coliseum at 4 p.m. today. Fourteen entries out of 67 posted two victories each in last Tuesday's elimination round. The frontrunners are James Ulilang (Mary Mount), Esting Teopaco and Capt. Ben Rodriguez (EGT Stinger JBB), Dindo Bales (Aqui Farm), Boyet Plaza (Surefire), Comm. Jun Sevilla (JRS Spectrum), Justice Elma Magdangal (Banahaw Altuz III), Rep. Lawrence Wacnang (EDL Crowsland Excellence I), LGBA head Boy Diaz and Butch Littaua (Purple Haze Arnismaster E-68 I); Blandy Tolentino (San Pablo Heat II), Joey Lapid (RM Coffee King), Hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez (Firebird), Edmund Yasay (Wild Harvester), Osmond Lambino (BB Whites) and Nansel Balibalot (Bats City). Call 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Isagani Zulueta tallied 45 points to capture the President's Cup golf tournament at the Alabang course. Also today in 1995, Rey Pagunsan shot a 2-under-par 71 to lift the Philippines to fourth place in the 17th Asia-Pacific Golf Championship in Christchurch, New Zealand.

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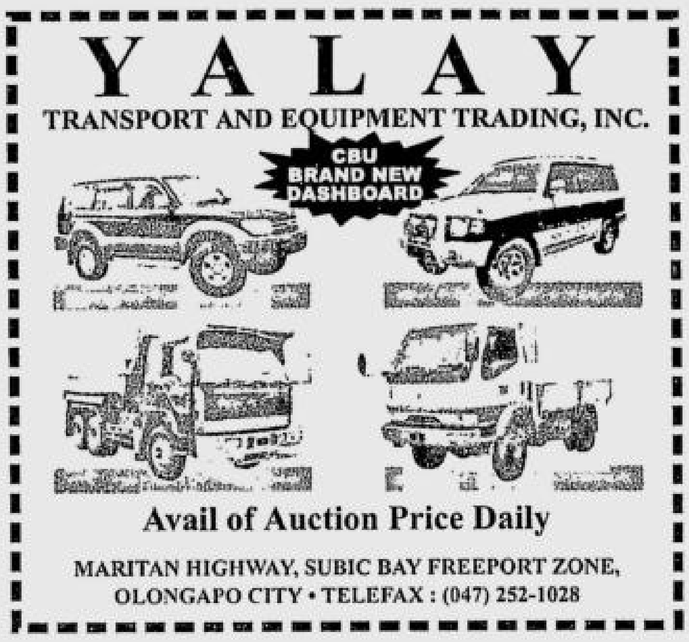

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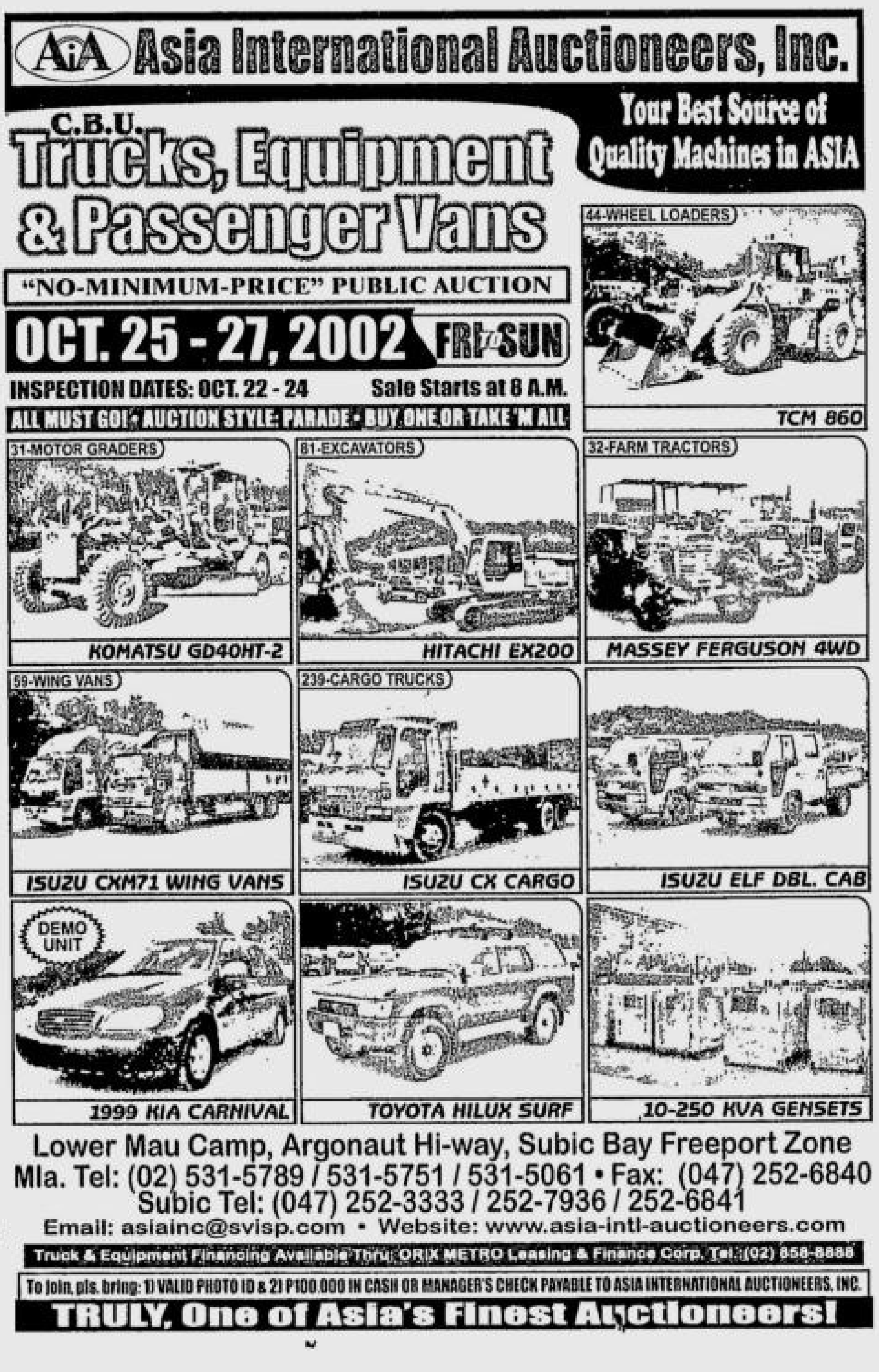

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

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MMDA wants 'tanod' armed by December

By Christian V. Esguerra and Nelson F. Flores

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) wants to have an army of fully armed barangay *tanod* or watchmen by December to combat terrorism.

At the weekly Bulong Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel in Pasay City yesterday, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando defended the training of about 18,000 *tanod*, saying they could help prevent the spate of terrorist activities in Metro Manila.

"It's better to arm more good people than to have armed bad people," Fernando told reporters.

Fernando, whose agency had been tapped by President Macapagal-Arroyo to draw up plans against terrorist attacks in the metropolis, was optimistic that village watchmen would effectively augment the undermanned police force.

"Police can't do the job alone, they need help," he said.

He said the watchmen would undergo a stringent selection process before they could join the training which would be facilitated by the Philippine National Police. He said they would also be made to undergo physical and psychological examinations before they

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Another Muslim Affairs officer slain

By Alcuin Papa

THE FINANCE officer of the Office of Muslim Affairs yesterday was ambushed and killed by four gunmen in Quezon City, a month after the OMA's executive assistant director was slain.

According to the Central Police District's initial reports, Nazer Baran was shot five times with a .45-caliber pistol.

One of the four suspects, identified as Adiong Udas, 27, a native of Davao, was arrested shortly after the shooting.

Police said Baran, on board his red Nissan Sentra (URY-829), had to stop at a red light at the corner of Kitanlad Street and Araneta Avenue in Quezon City about 4:45 p.m.

While Baran waited for the green light, a gunman approached his vehicle and started firing his .45-caliber pistol.

Witnesses told police that there were three other suspects serving as lookouts.

At the same time, a mobile unit from the Galas police station was patrolling the area and chanced upon the ambush, investigators said.

After a brief chase on foot, police collared Udas, but the three other suspects managed to escape.

When questioned, the suspect refused to reveal any information on the killing, even the motive. Murder charges are set to be filed against Udas, investigators said.

On Sept. 19, Kharis Mikunung, 52, deputy executive director of the OMA and resident of Kamuning, Quezon City, was killed in front of his office at the Ablaza Building on E. Rodriguez Avenue about 12:30 p.m.

Mikunung was with a relative and about to board his gray Toyota Corolla parked in front of OMA, when the suspect approached the victim from behind and fired a .38-caliber pistol in the back, according to police records.

Finding a cure for the RP basketball team

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THOSE who erred have apologized. Our team finished out of the medal, but it's time for Philippine basketball to move on.

It's become clear that our national team cannot go truly global if it doesn't abandon the tired *pa-pogi* individual style of play in the PBA.

Of course, several other prescriptions followed the exciting but failed mission of the RP cage squad in Busan.

What to do? Let's hear it first from the legendary Shin Dong Pa, a keen observer of Philippine basketball.

"You know what your team needs?" Shin asked during the basketball award rites in Busan. "You don't have outside shooters. Your team here as good as the 1973 team that beat us in Manila. But no shooters now."

Another close observer of RP basketball is the eminent Lindsay Gaze, whose Melbourne Tigers helped hone the RP squad through a two-game tune-up in Manila.

"The (RP) team indeed gave its best," Gaze noted, "but the lessons gained can be passed on to ensure a better prepared team next time."

He did not say it, but Gaze obviously wanted to prescribe a sustained program for a pool of national team players, much unlike the case-to-case basis resorted to by the PBA for Asiad campaigns.

***

Here at home, we have at least two concerned readers who sent in their observations and recommendations. Let's hear it from Teddy M. Reynoso of Bulacan, Bulacan:

"It was not the RP team that lost by the proverbial mile to the Chinese in a no-bearing prelims and a heart-breaker bronze medal game to the Kazakhs in the last Busan Asian Games. The real RP team was the one that came just a tad short of shaming the host South Korean team, no thanks to end-game boners from the floor and fatally, from the bench. Indeed, a timely break could not only have calmed the nerves of foul-shooter Olsen Racela (who was trying to re-essay the foul-line heroics of Danny Florencio way back in the 1967 Seoul ABC) but, more importantly, aborted an untimely victory celebration and jolted everyone back to the unfinished business at hand. Imagine the odds we enjoyed at that point of the game—two charity shots plus three fouls to give, all in the remaining less than half a minute of the ball game! We threw them away! Truly, it's not over 'till it's over and that coaches lose games. To Jong Uichico's credit, though, he took the blame squarely.

"The real RP team proved we are now at least at par with the Sokors in terms of skills and talents as well as physical assets and resources. You can just imagine what could have been had Danny Seigle played!

"Really, we can be back up there with the top Asian continental cage powers, and possibly regain our former lofty billing as world-beaters, if only the PBA and the BAP could get their act together and ensure our more frequent and regular participation in more international competitions. With the PBA and the myriad of commercial and collegiate leagues churning out and developing cage talents, we already have a rich pool, a trove of players to send to various international cage wars. No need to replicate the Danding Cojuangco formula; the advent of open basketball had broken down the barrier between the pro and the amateur cagers as far as participation in international competitions is concerned.

"The Chinese, Sokors and the Japanese have continued to represent their countries notwithstanding the fact that they play for pro leagues at home that prepare them for Asiad and the ABC tournaments. Certainly, we can follow their example and reap the handsome dividend sooner than the next Asiad."

Let's also hear it from Mrs. Cristina Ocampo-Ferrer, Director, School of the Holy Spirit and behaviorist with address at 99 Aniban, Bacoor, Cavite:

"Find a name. Hit me hard. Remember I wrote you some years back, against the influx of American/other countries with 'Philippine tag basketball players' and how the PBA was playing host to these 'dramatic' players. They grew up in foreign lands in the first place. They did not learn how it is to be a true Filipino genetically and by environmental factors which to, my mind, made the difference as a player. *Mabuti pa siguro si Torion ang ipinadala nila doon: mabagsik, madiskarte, malakas ang loob dahil naranasan niyang makipaglaban sa buhay dito.*

"There is a built-in Filipino mentality that these Filams etc. do not have at all. Nationalism is being born in the country and is learned from your family, at home, in school, your neighborhood and the bigger community you are in. Pardon me, but I really had misgivings when we started recruiting Filams. But the PBA has been running the games for entertainment, not to develop Filipinism among their players.

"*Tuwang-tuwa sila 'pag nagpapakengkoy ang mga Filams na mabiling-mabili sa mga fans kaya't mabili rin ang mga tickets, 'di po ba?* In psychology, what happened to our players and coaching staff was just the absence of inner strength, of character, or *kulang ng tibay ng loob. Nataranta na sila kaya nakalimutang may mga options pa.* That was a lapse of mental functions, *nawala ang focus!*

"I am 61 years old now, still doing my charity projects for poor but deserving children and the Dumagat tribe in the mountains of Montalban, but my love for basketball is still that big! God bless our country!"

PNP list of schools 'unfair to militants'

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA-BASED student organization yesterday slammed the Philippine National Police for identifying five big universities as "high-risk" targets of terrorist attacks because of the presence of militant student groups in them.

The National Union of Students of the Philippines said the PNP listing is baseless and unfair to militant groups.

The PNP and the Philippine National Association of School Service Organizations on Monday identified the high-risk schools as the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City; Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila; University of Sto. Tomas in Sampaloc, and Far Eastern University and University of the East on C.M. Recto.

NUSP president Raymond Palatino said the PNP had "malicious motives" in linking possible terrorist attacks to the presence of militant groups.

Palatino accused the PNP of using the terrorist scare as an excuse to justify increased police visibility and presence in Metro Manila's big universities.

Palatino believes that increased police presence is meant to check the growing influence of militant groups.

Palatino warned students in UP, PUP, UE, FEU and UST to brace for the impending suppression of their democratic rights.

Palatino admitted that the five schools are indeed high-risk targets but only because schools are crowded just like churches and malls.

In the case of the University Belt schools, they are susceptible to terror attacks because of their proximity to Malacañang, he said. PUP is also prone to similar attacks because it is located near the oil depot, he said.

New Alabang market costs P60 million, says Fresnedi

By Leila B. Salaverria

TAKING CARE of sidewalk vendors could sure be expensive.

Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi on Monday said the new marketplace in Alabang, which is being constructed so that sidewalk vendors could have a place to transfer to, costs about P60 million.

However, Fresnedi added that it was not the city that spent for the project but the private company Filinvest. But it would be the city that would manage the market, Fresnedi added.

Approximately 1,800 vendors could fit in the new market, he said.

Rent costs about P28 a day, and there is no goodwill money, he said.

The project is part of the Metro Manila Development Authority's plan to rid the sidewalks of all obstructions, vendors included. The campaign has generated much opposition from sidewalk vendors who said the MMDA is taking away their livelihood by confiscating their merchandise.

Muntinlupa government assured the vendors of a permanent place with low rent, the vendors were convinced to leave the sidewalks and transfer to a temporary market while the new one is being constructed.

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Sunday INQUIRER Magazine

Brawl in Malabon council

By Tina Santos

TWO MALABON City councilors on Thursday nearly came to blows in the session hall of the Sangguniang Panlunsod after cursing at each other over a resolution.

Councilors Eddie Torres, a member of the opposition bloc associated with acting Mayor Jayjay Yambao, and Alfonso "Boyong" Mañalac, who belongs to the majority bloc allied with suspended Mayor Amado Vicencio, disagreed over a resolution filed by administration Councilor Pol Cabrera which seeks a three-month extension of a land-filling contract for a reclaimed area intended for a housing project.

A number of people, including city council members Councilors Papaya Ona, Ricky Bernardo, Rogie Yanga and Lucio Santos, witnessed the showdown.

Torres, an engineer, said the city council was discussing the Cabrera resolution and he was at the rostrum arguing against the proposal when Mañalac, a former police chief, suddenly stood and "challenged me to a fist fight."

He quoted Mañalac as shouting in Filipino, "I know you cannot fight me with guns so let us fight with our fists."

Torres admitted that he reacted with harsh words and that he was ready to exchange punches with Mañalac when cooler heads pacified them.

Torres said he smelled something fishy when the administration councilors rushed to pass the Cabrera resolution that he described as anti-poor and advantageous only to a private entity.

He said the resolution was later passed by pro-Vicencio councilors after he and his two allies, Ona and Bernardo, walked out of the session hall.

Torres said the resolution would strip the city government of its right to acquire 12.2 hectares in Barangay Tanza in Navotas for only P320 per square meter, based on a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the local government and Junjun Fishing Corp. (JFC).

A P12.6-million down payment was paid for the property after the contract was signed last May.

JFC is owned by Mario Siochi, said to be a relative of Cabrera.

The property was to accommodate thousands of residents who would be affected by the railway rehabilitation program.

Torres claimed that the MOA was ratified by the council to include a stipulation that the P87-million cost would be good only if the land-filling operations were finished by Oct. 28.

Otherwise, the property would cost the government P700 per square meter or more than double the original price, Torres said.

Cabrera said that the reason for extending the land-filling contract was that typhoons had affected the operations.

"A total of nine (typhoons) since May affected the land-filling," he said.

3 men nabbed in P1.4-million credit card scam

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents arrested three men for running P1.4-million fake credit card scam in the cities of Pasig and Manila.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identifed the suspects as alleged financier Wilfredo Lin, 55, Ferdinand Cura, 42, and Ramil Norte, 24.

The alleged ring leader, Richard Valdez alias Carlos Valdes, was still at large, according to Wycoco.

The suspects are accused of using fake credit cards in purchasing P1.4 million worth of computers and parts from the Maxsaver Computer store on Shaw Boulevard in Pasig City.

Jerome Aning

Rookie cop shoots civilian who stabbed him

By Tina Santos

PO1 RANDY Cunanan shot RC Loy Managtag five times for stabbing him in the back near a police station in Malabon City Monday morning.

Cunanan, a rookie officer detailed with the Potrero police station, still had a knife planted in his back when he was taken to the Manila Cnetral University Hospital, investigators said.

Managtag was taken to the Philippine General Hospital, they added.

According to SPO1 Mario Galindoy, Potrero station desk officer, Cunanan was on his way to a police outpost on Victoneta Street in Potrero when Managtag came up from behind him and stabbed him.

Although seriously hurt, Cunanan was able to fire his service firearm at Managtag, who was pedaling away on a bicycle.

Investigators believe Managtag had a grudge against Cunanan.

MMDA wants 'tanod' armed by December

From page A25

could be issued firearms.

"Only morally upright *tanod* will be armed," he said.

Despite the recent bombing incidents in Metro Manila and Zamboanga, several sectors have expressed fear that arming barangay watchmen to combat terrorism might lead to abuses.

Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing, minority floor leader of the Manila city council, had called for a more comprehensive study of the proposal to arm village watchers. He said the plan would not necessarily be effective against crime or terrorism, but might only result in the proliferation of guns in the streets.

Fernando said concerns similar to Bagatsing's would be carefully addressed by the PNP and the local governments.

"We will train the *tanod* for as long as we need them," he said. "I hope we would have them ready by Christmas."

In Mandaluyong, Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. asked all barangay watchmen and security personnel in the city to undergo bomb detection training.

Abalos, in a meeting with barangay officials, private security personnel, local businessmen and church leaders, said the Mandaluyong government in cooperation with the PNP would sponsor seminars and trainings on bomb detection.

"It is not enough that barangay watchmen or security personnel check the bags of people coming in and out of establishments," he said. "They should be able to identity bombs and respond accordingly."

He said the Mandaluyong government has mobilized more than 2,000 policemen, barangay watchmen and volunteers in the fight against terrorism.

The Pasig City police have set up tight security measures in "probable target areas."

Supt. John Socito, Pasig city police chief, said his men were on red alert and were constantly patrolling areas likely to be hit by terrorists.

"We are ready for any eventuality even as we continue to do our routine work of maintaining peace and order," Socito said.

Pasig Mayor Soledad Eusebio urged the city's residents to be calm but alert.

Eusebio said even barangay officials were placed on alert to help the police force.

Eusebio made her appeal after one of the offices of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court received a phoned-in bomb threat shortly before noon, prompting the police to evacuate the court premises. The employees of the nearby city prosecutors' office and the Rizal Provincial RTC and prosecutors' office were also evacuated.

But no bomb was found after police combed the entire place for an hour. Police later allowed the evacuated employees to return to work.

Superintendent Socito said the threat was made by pranksters but he refused to elaborate.

"Maybe the bomb threat was made by court litigants who do not want to attend their hearings," he said.

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"Red Dragon" was given an R (restricted) rating here because of "violence, grisly images, obscene language, nudity and sex." The nudity part must have partly contributed to the box office success of the film since hordes of women were curious to see the buff butt of **Ralph Fiennes**. In the film's poster, Fiennes' back is shown tattooed with an elaborate painting of **William Blake**'s "The Great Dragon and the Woman Clothed with the Sun."

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"That's not me," he said. However, after reading Tally's script, he agreed to direct "Red Dragon."

The story starts years before the character of FBI agent Clarice Starling comes into the picture. On the big screen, **Jodie Foster** played Starling and ended up taking an Oscar for it in 1991. Eight years later, a disappointing **Julianne Moore** played Starling in "Hannibal," after Foster turned down the sequel.

In "Red Dragon," **Edward Norton** is FBI agent Will Graham, an expert investigator who nearly pays for his life while trying to pin down forensics psychologist Lecter, a cannibalistic serial killer.

After he survives Lecter's attack, Graham leaves the service and settles with his family in Marathon, Florida, only to be lured out of retirement years later to assist in another serial killing case.

Harvey Keitel of "The Piano" fame is Norton's fellow investigator who convinces him to help.

Fiennes plays the bad guy Francis Dolarhyde, a ritualistic serial killer who preys on women every full moon. Dolarhyde is a video technician and a brutal murderer with a serious mental problem. Yet, he has a sympathetic side. He has a soft spot for the blind dark room worker Reba (**Emily Watson**) whom he refuses to kill.

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From page A32

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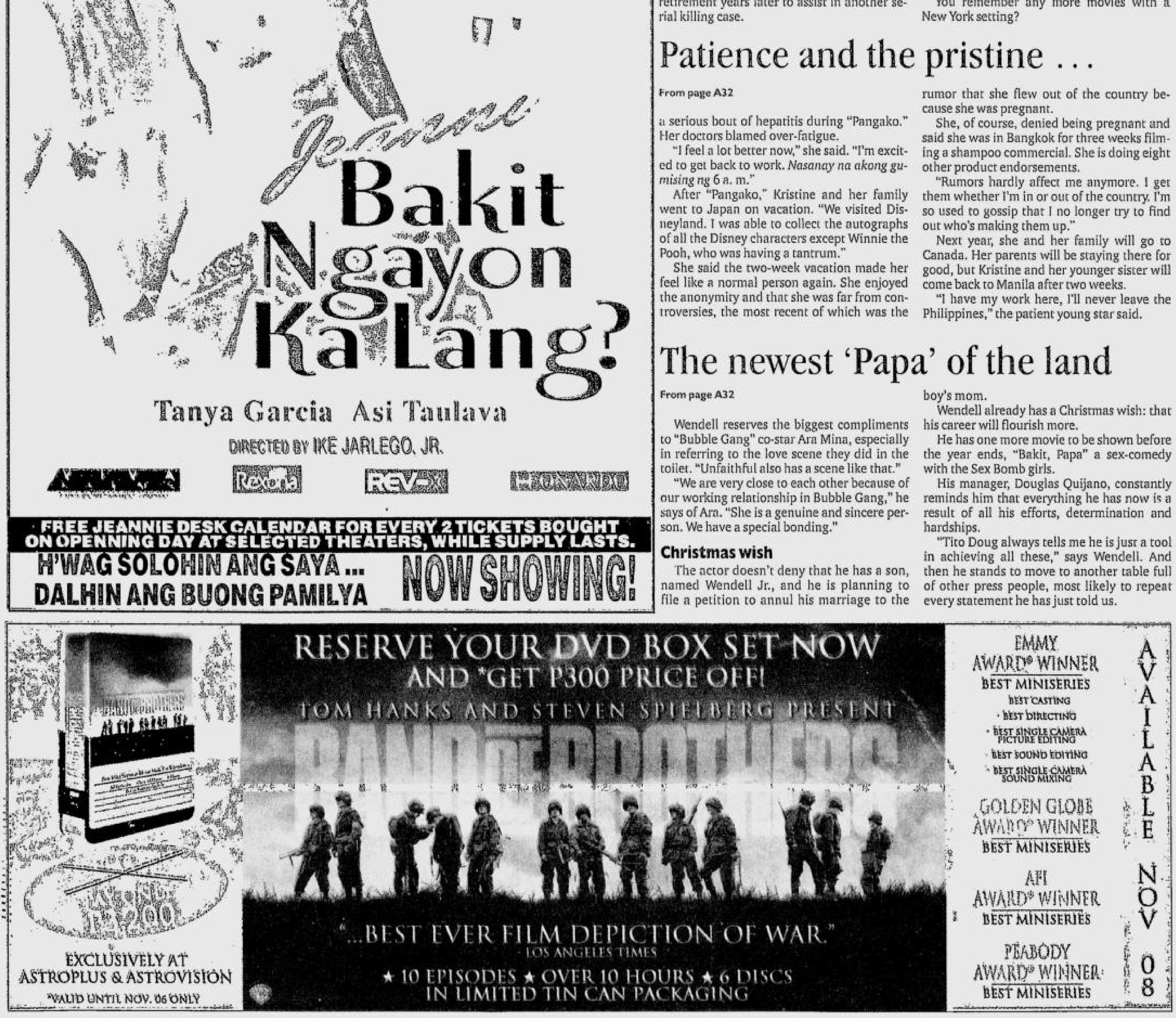
His manager, Douglas Quijano, constantly reminds him that everything he has now is a result of all his efforts, determination and hardships.

"Tito Doug always tells me he is just a tool in achieving all these," says Wendell. And then he stands to move to another table full of other press people, most likely to repeat every statement he has just told us.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Sum Insured	P159,411	P637,644	P120,452	P481,808	P91,414	P365,656	P68,950	P172,375	P50,421	P126,053	P36,314	P90,785	P25,541	P63,853

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New ‘adventure challenge’ show is too hectic

From page A31

a.m., “Dick.” 3:15 p.m., “The Addams Family.” 5 p.m., “Clear and Present Danger.” 9 p.m., “Finding Forrester.” 11:15 p.m., “Six Feet Under, 4: Familia.”

Sunday, Oct. 27 at 4:15 p.m., “Ghost.” 8 p.m., “In the Line of Fire.” 11:55 p.m., “Wayne’s World.”

Monday, Oct. 28 at 9:45 a.m., “The End of the Affair.” 12:25 a.m., “Best In Show.” Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 10 p.m., “Six Feet Under, 5: An Open Book.” Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 1:30 p.m., “Finding Forrester.” Thursday, Oct. 31 at 6:30 a.m., “The King and I.”

Munting Tinig

Opening today in only seven theaters is **Gil Portes’** “small film with a big heart,” “Mga Munting Tinig.” The movie about teachers and students has won acclaim abroad, and deserves to be appreciated here. Why not see for yourself why this budget production is making waves in international filmfests?

It could speak to you, too.

Feedback

From Ms. **Isabel Sevilla Soriano**, on our screenwriting workshops’ productive graduates: “Please keep at it—great scripts give performers the chance to have their talents. Then, Filipino movie acting may become worth our while.”

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MAPUPULANG ROSAS / KILLING ME SOFTLY
ODEON	ECK AND SAVER
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HIGH CRIME / JUST VISITING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LOLLIPOP
REMAR	LOLLIPOP
REMAR-2	HUBAD NA MULTO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
B	BEDTIME STORY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-2	POSSESSION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	FRAILTY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOUCH
CINEMA-6	BLODY RELATIONSHIP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-8	'O'
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROSTI
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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POSSESSION P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	9 MORNINGS GP 1:00,3:10,5:20, 7:35,9:50	MR. DEEDS P13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00
SWEET HOME ALABAMA P13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	TUXEDO P13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	BALLISTIC P13 11:45,1:50,3:55, 6:00,8:05,10:10

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GRAND OPENING TODAY!
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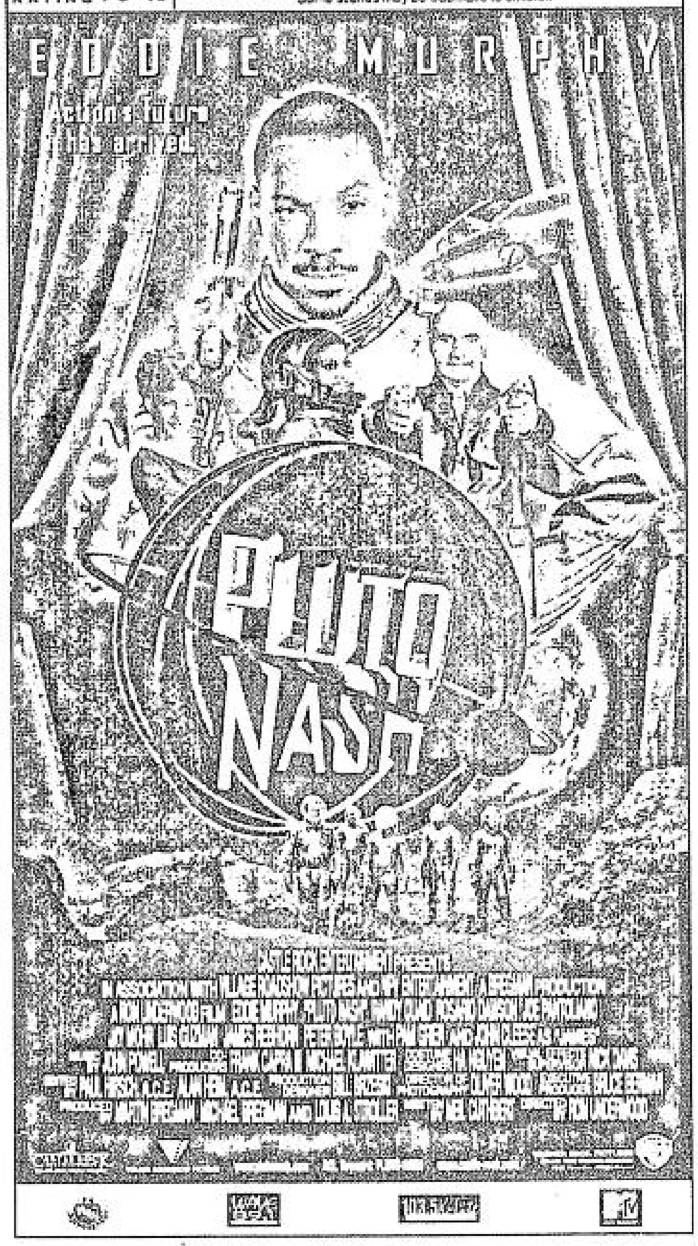
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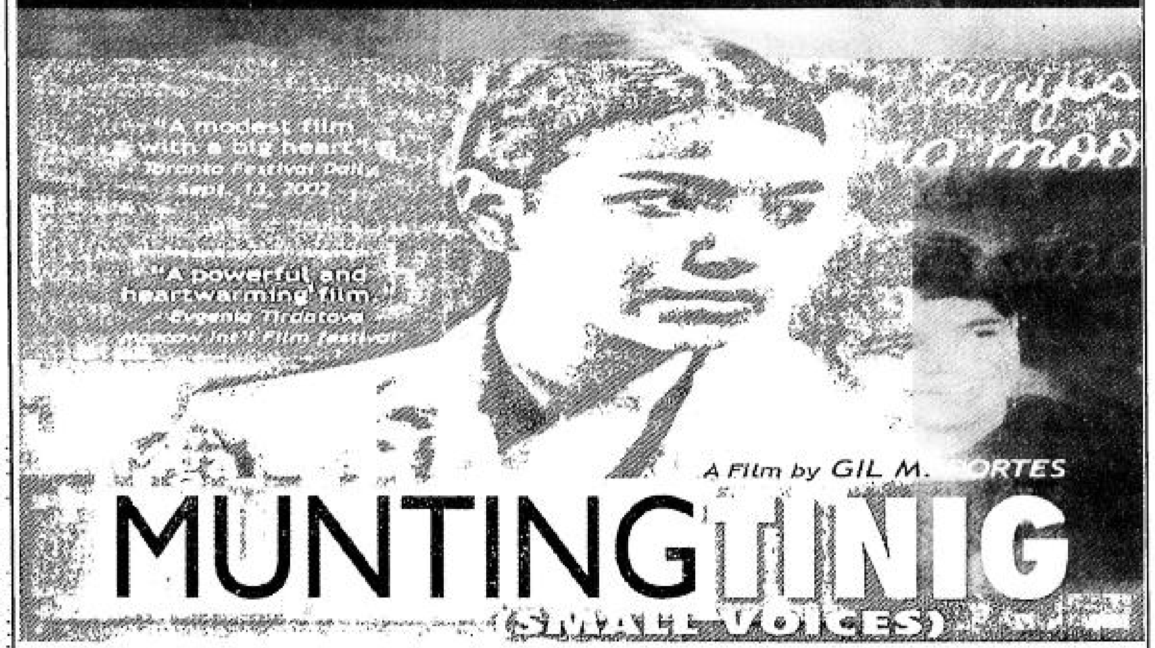

"A modest film with a big heart" - Toronto Festival Daily Sept. 13, 2002
"A powerful and heartwarming film." - Evgenia Tirdatova Moscow Int'l Film Festival
A Film by GIL M. PORTES
MUNTING TINIG
(SMALL VOICES)

"The American Film Institute (AFI) is honored to include 'Small Voices' in its list of NEW ASIAN FILM CLASSICS."
- Nancy Collet, Director of Programming, (AFI) Los Angeles Int'l Film Festival

"Smoothly and sensitively directed...a profoundly affecting and hopeful film."
- Steve Gravestock, Program Manager, Toronto Int'l Film Festival

"Very unique. It should do well in the OSCAR race for Best Foreign Language Film."
- Jacob M. Nellendam, Nordic Correspondent, Screen International

"It's an uplifting, optimistic film, much needed in our current times."
- Liz Czach, Programmer, Perspective Canada

"A rare Philippine film. No violence, no gratituos sex,, no overbearing melodramatic crying."
- Association of Asian-American Film Critics, U.S.A.

www.smallvoices.cjb.net

New 'adventure challenge' show is too hectic

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR FIVE Sundays starting last Oct. 20, "The Great Globe Adventure" on Channel 7 is subjecting different groups of celebrity players to hectic physical challenges for big prizes.

We caught the first 30-minute telecast last Sunday at 8:30 p.m., and we found it challenging alright—in fact, it was too hectic, and left its celebrity players completely exhausted.

At the end of the day-long competition, the celebrities didn't even look like stars anymore, and it appeared like all they wanted to do was to get into a hot bath and sleep for one week!

The teams in competition were: the Mushroom Boomers with **Karyll**, **Dingdong Dantes** and **Gabby Eigenmann**; the Nature Trippers with **Antoinette Taus**, **Raymart Santiago** and **Hans Montenegro**; and the Picnic Groovers with **Ann Curtis**, **Jeffrey Quizon** and **Derek Ramsay**.

Most of the players where physically fit, but the games thought up for them were so gruelling that their tongues were soon hanging out from sheer stress and exhaustion (only a slight exaggeration there).

The first "game" required the teams to clamber up a rope wall where parts of a puzzle were hung that they then had to put together. This took some doing due to the obstacles put in their way.

Next, the teammates had to ride a bicycle built for three to another area where they were required to fill a container with water from water balloons that one teammate tossed to another.

Once filled, the container had to be transported in a van to a beach where another game awaited the players. This involved two teammates being blindfolded and guided to find three skiis buried in the sand. The fact that they were blindfolded added greatly to the degree of difficulty of this part of the challenge.

They then proceeded to use the skiis in coordination with each other to slowly walk to another spot where they got things from a globe that they ran a relay to slap on a board to win—totally pooped.

Excitement is great, but the show has too much of it for it to be truly enjoyable as far as the player and home viewers are concerned. We trust that the competition's pace can ease up starting next Sunday.

Another unfortunate outcome of the competition's hectic and stressful progression is the host's being upstaged—which couldn't be the show's intent, so there is something wrong here. **Paolo Bediones** and his co-host (**Mitzi Valeriano?**) were hardly even on-camera, and their voiceovers were swamped by the players urgent physical activity. This is not right, especially since we note that Paolo is also credited as the show's "creative director." The creative director relegating his own host persons to support status? We're pretty sure that he didn't intend his participation in the show to end up this way.

The new "adventure" competition is eventful and well-produced, but it needs some fine-tuning, that's for sure. Let's hope that happens soonest, because it has only four more Sundays on the tube.

First casualty

The recent spate of terrorist activities in this part of the world has claimed its first casualty: the Oasis concert set for today, Oct. 23, at the Araneta Coliseum. The much-awaited show has been postponed until the launch of the popular band's next album, or sooner.

Let's hope that other foreign acts scheduled to perform here don't similarly opt to take a raincheck on entertaining their fans here.

Movies on TV

On the HBO channel: Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 a.m., "Picnic" 9 p.m., "Gladiator." 3 a.m., "Harlem Nights."

Thursday, Oct. 24 at 12:30 p.m., "Meet the Parents." 4 p.m., "Little Shop of Horrors." 4:3- a.m., "Cotton Mary."

Friday, Oct. 25 at 2 p.m., "It Could Happen to You." 5:30 p.m., "I Dreamed of Africa: A True Story." 5a.m., "Murder, She Wrote: The Last Free Man."

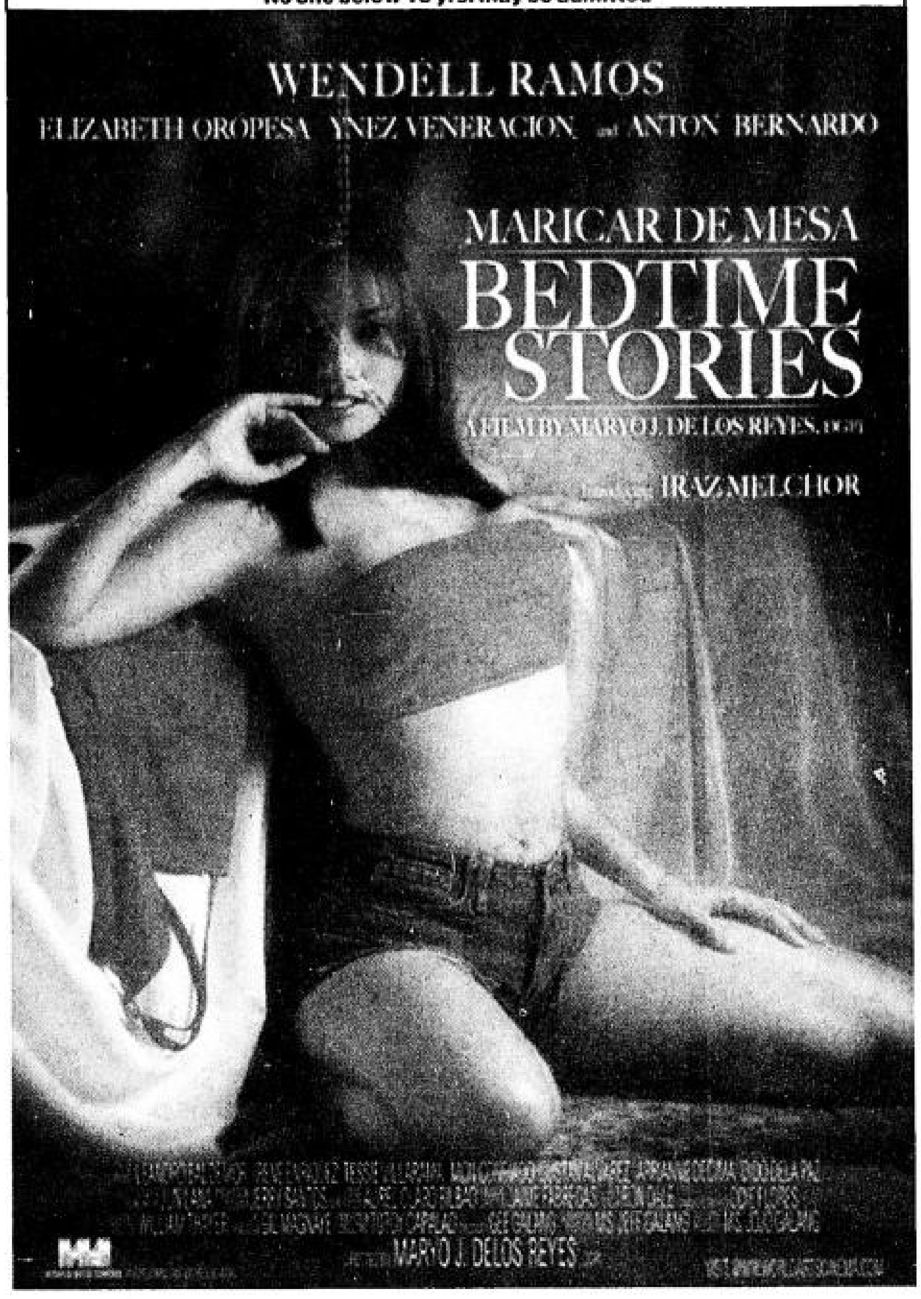
Saturday, Oct. 26 at 8a.m., "Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles." 10

NEW/ A30

MARILYN'S ALBUM

Marilyn Azanza will launch her BMG Records album, "Sa 'Iyo Lamang," on Oct. 26 at Sitio Diego Restaurant on Bohol Avenue, Quezon City, near the ABS-CBN compound. She recorded original compositions by Raymond de Guzman, Kahlil Refuerzo and Ruben Lopez Jr. Marilyn took a creative writing course in UP Diliman and formal singing lessons at the Center for Pop Music Philippines. The launch also serves as the opening of a painting exhibit featuring her as a model.

OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB RATING R-RESTRICTED STRICLY FOR ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted



WENDELL RAMOS
ELIZABETH OROPESA YNEZ VENERACION and ANTON BERNARDO
MARICAR DE MESA
BEDTIME STORIES
A FILM BY MARYO J. DE LOS REYES
IRAZ MELCHOR
MARYO J. DELOS REYES

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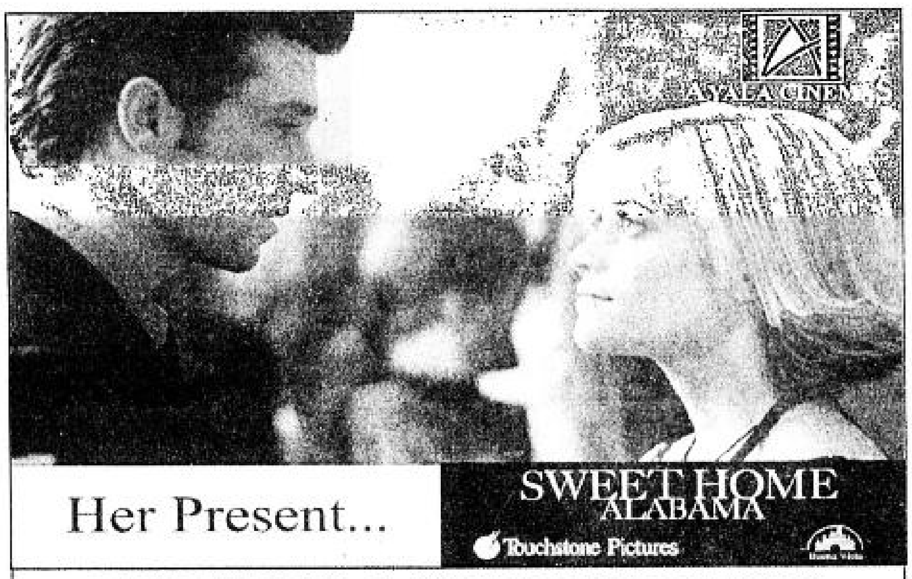

AYALA CINEMAS
Her Present...
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Touchstone Pictures

OPENS OCTOBER 30 (WED.) AT AYALA CINEMAS.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

AYALA CINEMAS
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Touchstone Pictures
Her Past...

OPENS OCTOBER 30 (WED.) AT AYALA CINEMAS.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

AYALA CINEMAS
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Touchstone Pictures
On the 30th of October 2002.
Her Future is for her to decide.

OPENS OCTOBER 30 (WED.) AT AYALA CINEMAS.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

NOW SHOWING!
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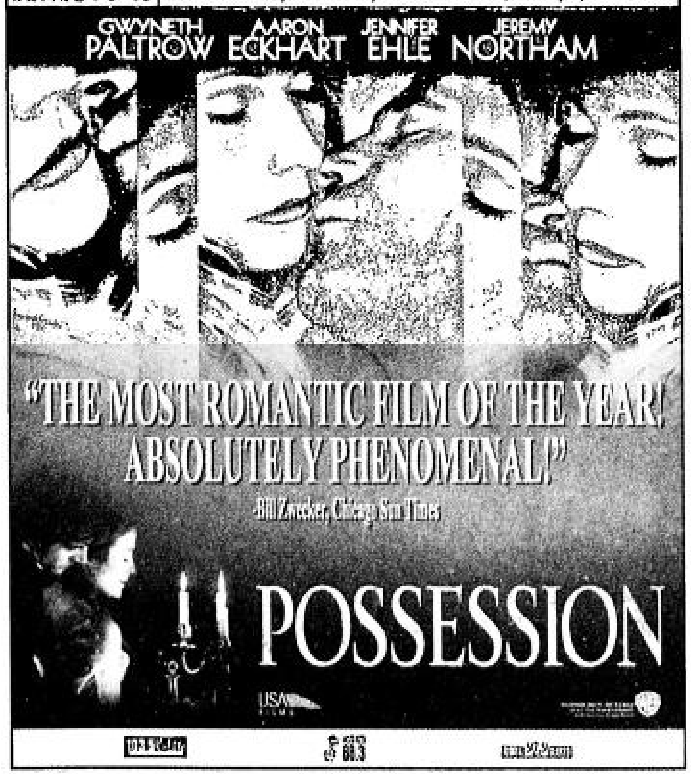

GWYNETH PALTROW
AARON ECKHART
JENNIFER EHLE
JEREMY NORTHAM
"THE MOST ROMANTIC FILM OF THE YEAR! ABSOLUTELY PHENOMENAL!"
-Bill Zwecker, Chicago Sun-Times
POSSESSION

HAVE A MERRY (EARLY) CHRISTMAS!
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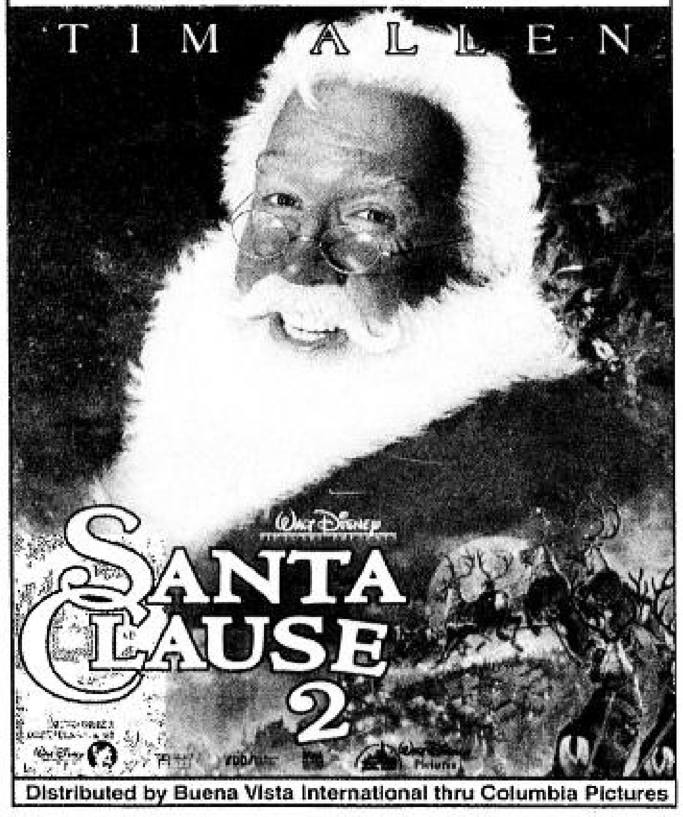

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

NEVER BOLD, vows Kristine Hermosa.

Patience and the pristine Kristine

By Marinel R. Cruz

"*HINDI baleng malaos ako, 'wag lang akong mag-bold,*" declared Kristine Hermosa, certainly the most beautiful face in Philippine show business these days, and you sincerely hope she would not eventually eat her words. A face like hers, after all, is enough to set imaginations on fire without her having to show even just the crook of her naked elbow.

"Besides," she added, during the lunch with the movie press last Monday, "I am patient enough to wait for the right movie to come." The right movie could be a really good comedy.

Patience, in fact, is the biggest lesson the young star learned during her two years in the national hit TV drama "Pangako Sa 'Yo," where she was Yna to the Angelo of Jericho Rosales who is her boyfriend in private life.

Kristine said a lot of things happened during "Pangako" tapings that really tested her tolerance.

"There was a time when all the actors were ready to shoot but the equipment broke down," she recounted. "There was an instance when we couldn't find the props we needed."

The press lunch was to launch the new all-in-one shampoo of Head and Shoulders, which she endorses.

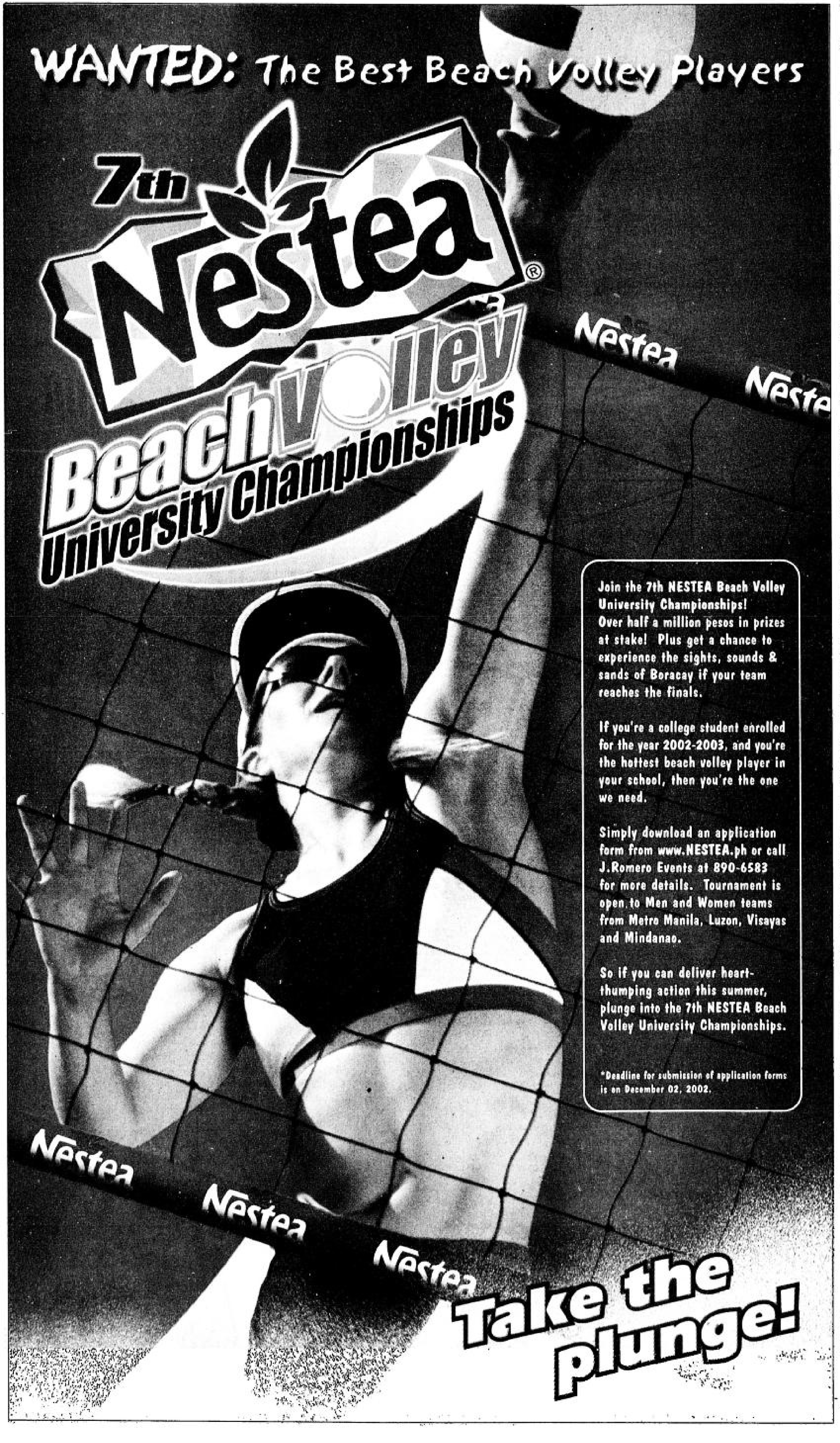
Now that the ABS-CBN soap has finally ended, Kristine is patiently waiting for new projects even when she is excited to get back to work.

Kristine, an exclusive ABS-CBN talent, said she has yet to discuss with the network bosses her next project but she disclosed that a movie with Jericho is in the works, with Jerry Sineneng directing for Star Cinema.

"I miss the cast of 'Pangako' and, believe it or not, I also miss the long hours of taping," she said. The "Pangako" tapings started at 6 a. m. and finished at about 7 a.m. the next day.

Kristine was reported to have had

PATIENCE/ A28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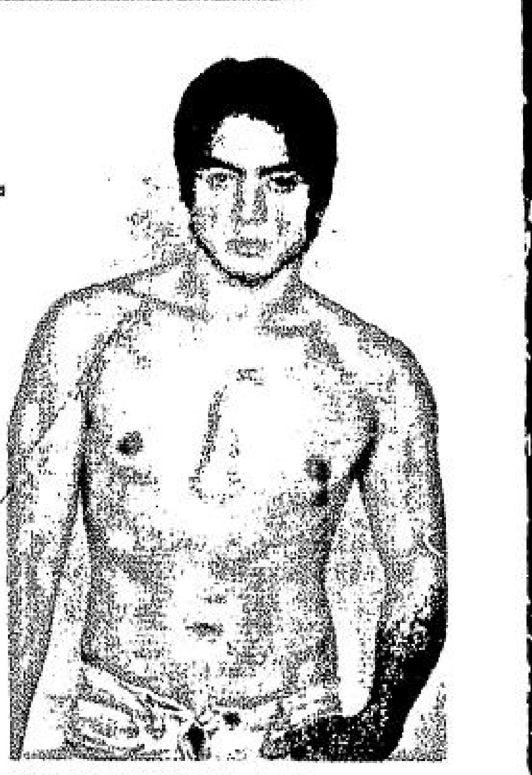
Simply download an application form from www.NESTEA.ph or call J.Romero Events at 890-6583 for more details. Tournament is open to Men and Women teams from Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

So if you can deliver heart-thumping action this summer, plunge into the 7th NESTEA Beach Volley University Championships.

*Deadline for submission of application forms is on December 02, 2002.

Take the plunge!


THE EYES HAVE IT. Wendell Ramos answers questions with one-liners.

The newest 'Papa' of the land

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

If JOYCE Jimenez is the original "Pantasya ng Bayan," what is 24-year-old hunk Wendell Ramos?

According to director Maryo J. de los Reyes: "Ang Bagong Papa ng Bayan."

Credit the decision of Wendell's handlers to transform his image from wholesome and comical to buff and bold.

The movie which triggered it all was Joel Lamangan's "Hubog," where Wendell was bold, dramatic and offbeat.

Revelation

In the words of Lamangan, Wendell "is a revelation. In no time at all he was able to absorb the quirks of the character he was portraying. I was delightfully surprised. He will definitely go places with his transformation."

Soon, half-naked photos of Wendell were splashed all over the pages of tabloids and fan mags, signifying the birth of a new screen hunk.

The last quarter of 2002 is the busiest for Wendell as he flits from one set to another portraying various offbeat and gorgeous characters.

In Viva Films' "Gamitan," he seduced Maui Taylor over a bet. When Maui found out the truth, she planned her sweet revenge which cost the life of Wendell's character.

The sexy actor with dreamy eyes was De los Reyes' choice to be Maricar de Mesa's leading man in the trilogy "Bed time Stories." Wendell plays Maricar's two-timing lover who is hooked on the Ecstacy drug, which also happens to be the title of the episode that De los Reyes megs.

On a Friday noon, over lunch of *adobo, pancit* and fried chicken, Wendell is bombarded with sex-oriented questions directly and indirectly related to his new movie from Regal Films, "Two Timer."

Like 'Unfaithful'

Directed by Mel Chionglo ("Sibak," "Burlesk King," "Lagarista"), the sex-drama is about fantasy and desire, marital infidelity, forbidden love and obsession. There are only three principal characters: Viveca Montes (Ara Mina) who engages in one-night stands, her busy professional husband Pocholo (Albert Martinez) and Andre (Wendell Ramos), who likes having an affair with an older woman.

One is quick to note the similarity of "Two Timer" to "Unfaithful," a recent film starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane.

"Only to a certain point," Wendell clarifies. "Actually, Ara Mina's characetr here fancies younger men and I am not the only young man with whom she has sex with. There are four other young men."

From Assunta to Maui, Maricar and now Ara Mina. Would he dare say who is best in doing love scenes?

"All of them," is Wendel's safe, show biz reply. More of this kind of reply follow whenever the line of questioning goes too personal.

Do you engage in one-night stands?

"*Depende.* But it is no big deal."

Do you go for as safe sex?

"Of course."

What about condoms? Do you have them in your car compartment?

"You plan for it."

What attracts you to a woman?

"Her skin. Smooth skin turns me on. And the eyes."

Too tired

How long can you go without sex?

"When you are busy as I am right now, you can't even think of sex or having it. *Sa sobrang pagod, iyon pa ba ang iisipin ko?* I would rather sleep and rest. I can sacrifice, though, for a week."

What is your best pick-up line?

"Hi."

Has anybody rejected you? "Wala pa naman."

THE NEWEST/ A28

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◉ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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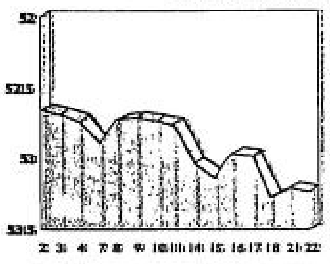

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 22, 2002

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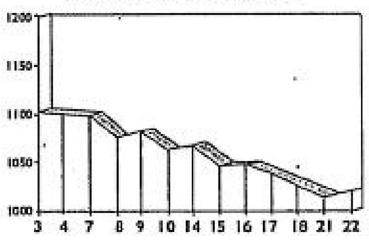
Shares rise 0.4%

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices rose 0.4 percent yesterday on bargain hunting in select oversold stocks after gains on Wall Street, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 4.4 points to close at 1,019.30.

Dealers said bargain-hunters took their cue from Wall Street's sustained rally and the market's oversold condition.

"The market staged a technical bounce with many stocks at already oversold levels. I think this bargain-hunting is encouraged by the strengthening of the peso and the market's oversold condition," said Harry Liu of Summit Securities.

"The US market's sustained rally, I think, also provided some sort of psychological support for the local market," Liu said.

But the market is expected to test the 980-1,000 index level in the short term, with security concerns over a spate of bombings recently keeping investors cautious.

"This is a temporary bounce. The market has been down for the past three sessions. We don't expect the market to sustain this rise. There are no good news ahead," said Henry Ong, KGI Securities vice president for sales.

Volume fell to 104.37 million shares but value rose to P244.78 million from 189 million shares worth P210 million on Monday.

Losers narrowly beat gainers 21 to 20 and there were 38 stocks unchanged.

Ong said he also expected the market to test the psychological support level of 970 this week if the budget deficit comes in higher than expected and if index heavyweight PLDT continues to hit new lows.

"PLDT, tracking its New York ADRs, may go down further. It might reach 200 pesos this week and drag the market," Ong said. ***AFP, Reuters***

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is expected to raise the budget deficit target for 2003 from the original P142.1 billion.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said he was open to raising the budget deficit target in 2003, although Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said she does not approve of any revisions at this point.

A more contentious issue, however, is whether to push back the balanced budget timetable from 2006 to 2008.

Camacho admitted that Congress had been trying to convince the economic team to "be more conservative with the 2003 numbers, particularly with the deficit."

By being more conservative, the lawmakers were suggesting a higher deficit number for next year as the expected revenues might not be realized due to the continued economic weakness.

"Instead of pegging the deficit target at 3.3 percent of the gross domestic product, maybe we could raise it to 3.5 percent. If we allow the deficit next year to go up to 4 percent of GDP, then it may start to put pressure on expenditures," the finance chief said.

If the 2002 deficit hits P180 billion by year's end as most people expect, this number would be equivalent to 4.7 percent of GDP. This ratio would already affect the fiscal target for next year when expenditures are estimated at P782.8 billion and revenues at P640.7 billion.

"With a 5 percent GDP growth, I believe next year's deficit would realistically hit P160 billion or about 3.7 percent of GDP," said a ranking government official.

Boncodin said raising the deficit target in 2003 would only allow the economic team to relax and this would be inimical to the objective of bringing down the deficit to zero by 2006.

Camacho said he was inclined to keep the 2006 balanced budget target until such time when it would be necessary to really push back the timetable.

"I don't agree to revising the deficit target because it would just take out the discipline. I am not ready to give up yet on the target of a zero deficit by 2006," said Boncodin.

"At the same time, we cannot continue sustaining deficits at these levels. If revenue collections don't improve, then we must make a decision sometime next year, but I believe to change the targets now would be too premature," she added.

The government is being urged to raise its budget deficit target to at least P160 billion in 2003 and to delay by two years or to 2008 the timetable of bringing down the fiscal gap to zero following the huge fiscal slippage this year.

A senior government source said that the economic team must revisit its fiscal targets for next year and bring the deficit assumption to a more realistic level to avoid untoward market reactions like those felt this year as jitters about the fiscal slippages led to the peso's volatility.

As of August, the budget deficit rose to P144 billion from an original full-year target of P130 billion. The slippage is seen to have widened to between P155 billion and P160 billion as of September.

US envoy cautions gov't on IPP review

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE AMERICAN ambassador to Manila yesterday said there was "a difficult political environment for investors" in light of the current review of government contracts with independent power producers (IPPs).

But Francis Ricciardone, who visited the power stations of CalEnergy International in Leyte during the weekend, said in a statement issued by the firm that he remained optimistic of the leadership policies of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"When (the President) speaks of a strong republic, I take that to mean strengthening the rule of law," Ricciardone said. "This has been spoken about at least 75 times since she took office."

He said he believed strongly in Ms Macapa-

US ENVOY/ B6

Key is moderation, restraint, discretion in credit card issue

By Clarissa S. Batino

(Last of three parts)

B-One

SWAMPED with complaints from angry credit card holders, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is now agonizing over whether to impose a cap on interest rates that credit card firms charge.

It is a question that has been hanging for a year. While it hangs, public outrage over usurious rates of most credit card firms continue to pour in.

The central bank seems reluctant to flex its regulatory muscles over 32 banks and their credit card subsidiaries. Monetary officials claim that the central bank can no longer unilaterally impose ceilings on interest rates, as the industry has already been deregulated.

However, while the central bank has censured banks and has used moral suasion to cut lending rates, it appears uneasy in being as strict when it comes to a sector that accounts for only 1.95 percent of the banking sector's P1.75 trillion in loan portfolios.

A banker has argued, on condition that his name be withheld, that if the central bank can invoke its so-called gentleman's agreement with the Bankers Association of the Philippines, there's no reason why it can't do the same with the Credit Card Association of the Philippines.

The deal between the BSP and the BAP-forged when the BAP's head was Rafael Buenaventura, now the central bank governor-sought to cap the average lending rate at five percentage points over the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rates.

Nestor Espenilla, an assistant governor of the BSP, said setting a cap on credit card rates

KEY/ B0

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Ayala joins P2-B Cebu water project

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CONSORTIUM of Ayala Corp. and Central Equity Ventures Inc. yesterday signed with the municipality of Carmen in Cebu an agreement to undertake a new project to boost the water supply of Metro Cebu Water District by 35 percent.

In a statement, Ayala said the agreement was signed in Cebu by Ayala Corp. executive managing director Fernando Zobel de Ayala, CEVI chair Sabino Padilla and Carmen mayor Amytis de Dios Batao.

It was earlier estimated that the Ayala-CEVI consortium would spend about P2 billion for the project, which involves the development, financing, design, construction, operation and maintenance of a water facility that will extract, treat and deliver water from the Cantumog-Luyang River in Carmen to meet the needs of Metro Cebu households.

The proposed project seeks to address MCWD's fast-growing water requirement by adding 50,000 cubic meters of water a day to its current capacity. An increase of 35 percent in the supply of MWCD will address 20 percent of the total water requirements of Metro Cebu, the statement said.

For its part, CEVI has rights to get water from the Luyang River and, in turn, invited Ayala as a partner in the water project. CEVI has interests in water, power, mass transportation and rural financial intermediaries.

The Ayala statement noted that Cebu was currently consuming 280,000 cubic meters of water a day, only half of which was being supplied by the MWCD while the rest was provided by privately owned deepwells.

"However, studies indicate that Cebu's aquifer is now overdrawn by two or three times its sustainable capacity. Meanwhile, businesses have noted the effect of a water supply shortage to Cebu's economic development," the statement said.

The proposed project includes the construction of a rubber dam, a water treatment plant, booster pumping stations, reservoirs and a 27-km transmission line that will deliver potable water to MCWD's distribution network.

As an unsolicited proposal, the project will still be opened for public bidding as required by the build-operate-transfer law. To date, the project, which will be under a 25-year water concession, has yet to be approved by other government agencies like the Neda and the Local Water Utilities Administration.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

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September 2002

IT firm posts record profit

INFORMATION technology service provider SPI Techologies posted a record profit of P123 million in the third quarter compared to a P7-million loss a year ago following the turnaround in the operations of its upstart call center unit eTelecare.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SPI said the sustained profitability for the second consecutive quarter was made possible by the 61-percent rise in consolidated revenues to P666 million due mainly to the successful ramp-up of a large multi-year content conversion project and the turnaround achieved by eTelecare.

SPI's earnings before interest,taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) grew by 168 percent to P185 million and operating income improved by 206 percent to P147 million for the July-September period.

"We are reaping the benefits of our strategy of entering into attractive sectors of the rapidly growing global business process outsourcing industry, where we can leverage SPI's established track record and highly competitive workforce," SPI president Ernest Cu said.

The third quarter performance brought SPI's nine-month net income to P125 million from a loss of P50 million in 2001.

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NOV. 6 (WEDNESDAY)
2:15 - 3:15pm Panasonic Industrial Motor Seminar by: Panasonic Industrial Sales
3:30 - 4:30pm Introduction to LEICA's New Products by: Maedan Enterprises
NOV. 7 (THURSDAY)
10:30 - 11:30am Getting Your Message Across- The Sony Style by: Solid Video
1:00 - 2:00pm PCB Prototyping Machine & PC Scope by: Hakko Philippines
2:15 - 3:15pm Various Products Demo & New Techniques by: Loctite
3:30 - 4:30pm Lead Inspection System by: Benchmark Systems
NOV. 8 (FRIDAY)
10:30 - 11:30am Customized Turnkey Automation Capabilities @ LM Tech (Phil) (a joint venture between the LIONAPEX Group & MARUGO Industries Ltd.) by: L&M Tech - Lionapex
1:00 - 2:00pm ESD Market Trends by: ESD Advanced Technology Corp.
2:15 - 3:15pm Leadfree Finish of Semiconductor Components by:Greenchemicals Corp.
3:30 - 4:30pm Surge Suppression Transformers by: Cebu Sarah Inc.- Digital Network Inc.
NOV. 9 (SATURDAY)
1:00 - 2:00pm Company Profile and Product Introduction by:Nupon Technology
2:15 - 3:15pm Omron Mechatronics of the Philippines Company Profile and Product Presentation by: Omron Mechatronics of the Philippines
3:30 - 4:30pm Flow Injection Analysis for Environmental Monitoring by: Philab Industries

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NOV. 6 (WEDNESDAY)
1:00 - 5:00pm Working Towards Environment Friendly Maintenance Technology (Topics on Air Compressors, Facilities Engineering, Pumps, Electric Motors, Oil & Lubricants, Bearing & Eco-Friendly Refrigerants)

SCHEDULE OF FREE NEW TECHNOLOGY SEMINARS
SEMINAR ROOM 2
NOV. 6 (WEDNESDAY)
2:15 - 3:15pm Manufacturing Test Solutions by: Agilent Technologies
3:30 - 4:30pm Solder Paste Technology for BGA Packages by: Elitech Corporation
NOV. 7 (THURSDAY)
2:15 - 3:15pm Integrated Solid/ Hazardous Waste Management by: PAE Environmental Company
3:30 - 4:30pm Advances in ESD Control, Process Solutions and Cleaning Systems by: Hugle Technologies
NOV. 8 (FRIDAY)
10:30 - 11:30am Innovative System for Manufacturing Processes by: Digi-Software
1:00 - 2:00pm Establishing Competitive Advantage before your competitors do by: Global Implementation Services
2:15 - 3:15pm New Technology from Edgeworth by: Edgeworth Corporation
3:30 - 4:30pm Innovations in X-ray Technology from Phoenix by: SEMATEQ Inc
NOV. 9 (SATURDAY)
10:30 - 11:30am Industrial Control Valves & Automation by: Tytrade Internationl Corporation
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, October 22,2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	120,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18	17.75	18	138,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	40	41	40	41	169,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	31,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	30.5	31.5	161,200
Philippine National Bank	23	23	22.75	23	31,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10	10	10	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	11	11	11	11	1,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.5	17.5	17	17.25	11,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1230	1230	1220	1230	1,350
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	30,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	980	980	975	980	5,970
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17.25	17	17	3,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	320,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	390	400	390	400	7,520
ISM Communications Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.8	59,000
Piltel	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	510,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	220	220	214	214	178,660
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	13,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.25	15	15	13,000
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.25	20.75	20.75	433,300
Petron Corp.	1.34	1.38	1.34	1.38	711,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	552,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.18	2.2	2.18	2.18	1,130,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	48,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	2,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	32,200
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	55	275,700
San Miguel Corp. B	58.5	59	58	58.5	1,790,400
Universal Robina Corp.	3	3	3	3	4,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	40,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.8	1,406,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	5,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	74,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.175	0.2	0.175	0.2	220,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.043	0.045	0.043	0.045	1,500,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	302,200
Ionics Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.34	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	51,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	550,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.17	0.185	0.17	0.185	16,500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	180,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	140,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	1,020,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.42	1.5	1.42	1.5	27,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	20	20	20	20	9,500
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.8	9.4	8.8	9.4	33,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	210,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	17	17	77,600
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	8,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	4.95	4.95	4,367,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	790,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1,470,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	1,290,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	264,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5	5.2	5	5.1	672,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	82,000
Omico Corp.	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	5,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	6,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	240,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	29,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	600,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	723,320	24,212,725.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	43,130,280	192,721,295.00
PRO	9,004,000	27,312,240.00
Mining	11,322,000	293,400.00
OIL	39,640,000	107,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	103,819,600	244,647,060.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	402.66	UP 3.96
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,407.74	DOWN 2.75
PRO	452.71	UP 5.42
Mining	1,084.81	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.16	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	632.96	UP 2.09
Composite	1,019.30	UP 4.40

NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 79; NO. OF TRADES: 1,409

DISCLOSURES

AYALA Corp. disclosed that on Sept. 17 the shareholders of both Integrated Microelectronics Inc. and Electronic Assembles Inc. unanimously approved the merger of the two companies effective Jan. 1, 2003, with Integrated Microelectronics Inc. as the surviving entity.

* * *

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. disclosed that Mr. Charles L. Bradish was appointed vice president by the board of directors.

* * *

MANILA Electric Co. confirmed that it will not meet its profitability commitments to its creditors for the fourth straight year due to delays in the government's approval of its rate increase petitions.

* * *

THE BOARD of directors of Fairmont Holdings Inc. decided to appoint Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. as a new stock transfer agent effective Nov. 4 for both its common and preferred shares of the stock.

* * *

ASIATRUST Development Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Shangri-la Hotel in Makati City. Record date is on Oct. 21. *Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

Oct. 22, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.026799	1.000000	53.342000
Japan	Yen	0.008220	0.008005	0.427000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.584249	1.542900	82.301400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.131662	0.128226	6.839800
Switzerland	Franc	0.679819	0.662076	35.316500
Canada	Dollar	0.656732	0.639591	34.117100
Singapore	Dollar	0.575495	0.560475	29.896900
Australia	Dollar	0.567920	0.553097	29.503300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.723823	2.652731	141.502000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.273798	0.266652	14.223800
Brunei	Dollar	0.571715	0.556793	29.700500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000109	0.005800
Thailand	Baht	0.023572	0.022957	1.224600
UAE	Dirham	0.279576	0.272279	14.523900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.973900	51.949800
Argentina	Peso	0.284432	0.277008	14.776200
Brazil	REAL	0.263823	0.256937	13.705500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134583	0.131070	6.991500
India	Rupee	0.021268	0.020713	1.104900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.270246	0.263193	14.039200
Mexico	New Peso	0.103268	0.100573	5.364800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.496758	0.483793	25.806500
Norway	Kroner	0.135030	0.131506	7.014800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017477	0.017021	0.907900
South Africa	Rand	0.100666	0.098039	5.229600
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.000813	0.043400
Sweden	Kroner	0.110199	0.107323	5.724800
Syria	Pound	0.023230	0.022624	1.206800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029506	0.028736	1.532800
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000746	0.000727	0.038800

NTC presses Star to disclose reasons for channel pullout

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission will no longer request but demand that Star Group Ltd. state specific reasons for the pullout of five of its channels from Destiny Cable Inc.'s system if it still does not respond to the regulator's queries today.

NTC acting commissioner Armi Jane Borje said in an interview that the Star Group has not yet fulfilled its promise to disclose to the NTC the specific reasons for its decision not to renew Destiny's contract for five top rating channels: ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, Star Movies and National Geographic.

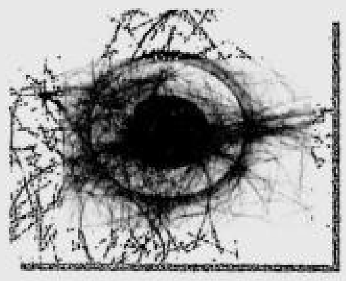
In a letter to the NTC dated Oct. 14, Star Regional Private Ltd. director Charles Pollard informed the NTC of the Makati regional trial court's decision rejecting Destiny's plea for a 20-day temporary restraining order on the channel pullout.

The same letter contained the program provider's commitment to give the NTC complete and specific answers to questions raised several days before the Star Group actually pulled the plug on Destiny.

"I will be pleased to address and answer the points the NTC has made in its letters to Star shortly," Pollard said.

But Borje said the NTC had already given the Star Group almost two weeks to come up with a full

NTC/B5



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Electronics sector projecting $100B in exports

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE electronics industry is aiming to quadruple its exports to $100 billion and boost its workforce by three-fold to 1 million employees by 2008 by luring foreign investors going to China into diverting some of their investments here, and by diversifying its products and services to higher value-added lines.

These lofty goals are part of the Competitive Landscape study undertaken by Deloitte Consulting for the Semiconductor and Electronic Industries of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) which wanted to establish a roadmap that would guide the government and private sector in the development of the industry over the next six years.

"We think our targets are achievable given that the global electronics business would grow to $1.3 trillion in 2008," said Norberto Viera, managing director of Texas Instruments, which operates one of its biggest computer chip factories in Baguio.

To achieve the $100-billion export target, Seipi executive director Ernie Santiago said the industry must have investments of at least $33 billion during the period which was no mean feat considering the strong pull of China (with its low-cost labor and huge domestic market).

The Deloitte study urges the local industry to diversify from the mature semiconductor business (which it expects to grow slowly in the next few years) where it is already competent such as assembly and testing, to higher-value added services such as design, product engineering, and low-end wafer fabrication.

The study cited electronics manufacturing services (EMS) or the production of electronics assemblies and sub-assemblies for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and data processing and communication as among the areas that the government should target..

Deloitte listed seven key strategies that the Philippines should adopt: control manufacturing costs (such as labor, electricity and taxes); improve country's image; focus on EMS development; enhancement of allied industries; strive for semiconductor test center excellence; and establishment of a wafer fabrication facility.

Viera said Seipi had presented the roadmap to the government whose full-fledged support was crucial to achieving the industry's goals specifically in terms of addressing the country's high power costs, poor infrastructure, breakdown in law and order, and improving the investor incentive package.

He did not comment whether the absence of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II from yesterday's conference was indicative of the government's interest in the electronics industry, the country's biggest export earner.

Seipi said the key to the realization of the roadmap was proactive governance which could be achieved through the establishment of an electronics council chaired by the President which was patterned after similar strategies in competing countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

Commercial banks' real estate loans down 5.2% in 2nd quarter

By Clarissa S. Batino

DESPITE the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' call on banks to increase their real estate lending, loans extended by commercial banks to the property development sector in the second quarter contracted by 5.2 percent to P192.3 billion, from about P203 billion in the same period last year.

The second quarter figure was 1.8 percent or P3.4 billion lower than the first quarter level.

The thrift banks, for their part, increased their real estate exposure by 21.66 percent or P7.43 billion to P41.74 billion as of end-June from the year-ago level. This, however, was almost unchanged from P41.71 billion the previous quarter.

Initially believed to be a signal of the property sector's recovery during the first quarter, a central bank official said that the much-awaited rebound of the real estate industry had remained tentative given the more recent data.

As of the second quarter, the ratio of real estate loans of the savings banks fell to 27.2 percent of total loans from 29 percent in the first quarter, but higher that the 24.17 percent in the previous year.

For the commercial banks, the ratio of real estate loans to their total portfolio of 11.6 percent was down from 12.3 percent of total loans as of end-June 2001.

The past due real estate loans of the commercial banks slightly declined to P50.5 billion or 1.7 percent as of the second quarter from P51.4 billion in the first quarter.

For the thrift banks, the past due portion rose to 13.8 percent of the total, up from the previous quarter's 12.8 percent and 12.1 percent in the previous year.

The central bank has been easing policies on real estate lending to make housing loans more accessible to borrowers. The policy-making Monetary Board, for one, made housing loans eligible for rediscounting.

The BSP also increased the loan valuation of new and existing residential and subdivision development to 80 percent from 70 percent

The bulk of the commercial banks' real estate loans went to the development of commercial property while those from thrift banks went mainly to the acquisition of residential property and the development of subdivision housing.

A central bank official pointed out that despite the decline in interest rates during the first quarter, the real estate loans hardly increased from their previous quarter's levels.

A banker, however, said that with the on going "price war" among an increasing number of banks, the exposure of the big banks to the real estate sector would likely improve in the coming months.

Chinatrust Bank engaged competitors in a "price war" on housing loans by bringing down rates to new clients substantially.

The central bank said the bulk of the thrift banks' loans to real estate were used to buy pieces of property in the National Capital Region, particularly in Metro Manila.

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RP engineers among world's best in IT sector, says Motorola

FILIPINO specialists in IT and telecommunications technologies continue to maintain a considerable presence in the international arena. In the global organization of worldwide technology leader Motorola alone, Filipino engineers are lending their expertise to clients within and outside the Motorola network in various markets across the globe.

As a testament to the skill and talent of the Filipinos, the local Motorolans are providing services in a wide spectrum of fields and disciplines, from technical support in broadband and radio technologies to software research in systems programming, to customer service in business development.

"Our Filipino engineers are definitely world-class in terms of skills, work attitude, efficiency, and productivity," notes Joju Quejada, president of Motorola Communication Phils. Inc. (MCPI). "It is then not surprising that in the Motorola organization, the scope of operations of the various support teams of Filipino engineers covers much of the world."

Quejada knows for sure as he manages Motorola's regional development center or RDC, which provides software development and systems management services to the company's Semiconductor Product Sector (SPS).

The RDC may be officially referred to as a regional center, but it actually provides services to Motorola globally. "RDC is called a regional center, but its customers are global," Quejada notes.

Motorola, the company that introduced two-way radio technology over 50 years ago, has maintained its leadership position in the industry by continuously innovating products and support systems.

"Aside from that, our customers are constantly assured of supportability. Our team of engineers is always ready to assist in operating and maintaining the systems that they get from Motorola any time of the day. And we do have a strong pool of talent to deliver the best service any customer can possibly ask for," says Eric Co, regional service manager with Motorola's Commercial, Government and Industrial Service Sector or CGISS, which handles Motorola's two-way radio business in South Asia.

Co manages a team of engineers mostly Filipinos. The team provides customer support services to Motorola clients in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. "I think the company sees the Philippines as a good source of talent," he offers.

Co attributes the high level of competitiveness of the Filipino engineer to several factors. "Foremost is our good work attitude," he states. "We are hardworking and diligent. Our work is never half-baked."

Key is moderation, restraint, discretion in credit card issue

From page B1

should be studied carefully.

"We are still assessing whether it is better to have market-driven rates that continue to give the greater number of people easy access to credit or to tighten the rates and consequently cut the access of many consumers," Espenilla said.

The bigger picture is the domestic economy, he stressed, noting that a 3.6-percent growth in consumer spending in the first six months of the year helped fuel a 4.5-percent growth in the country's gross domestic product.

Camarines Sur Rep. Felix Alfelor has filed a bill seeking a monthly ceiling of 3.5 percent on all charges imposed by credit card companies.

Espenilla believes the knee-jerk response of credit card companies to a rate ceiling will be to again impose a very rigid credit screening process that may deny access even to those who have legitimate needs for a credit card and are capable of paying their debts.

Before credit cards became more available, the options for quick cash for those in need would either be a pawnshop, which charged a monthly interest rate of 5 percent, or a loan shark, who gave "5-6" loans that effectively applied a 1,000-percent interest rate.

"There is also the so-called palengke system where a person borrows, for instance, P100 in the morning and pays P120 by sundown. These were the options for Juan de la Cruz before the credit card companies decided to be more aggressive," Espenilla said.

Cost of access

From less than 1 percent of the loan portfolios of banks three years ago, the credit card exposure of the banking system grew to 1.38 percent in June last year and to 1.52 percent in March this year.

Naturally, the improved public access has not been without costs. As credit card companies became less strict in credit evaluation, they opened themselves to greater risks of incurring bad loans.

As in every business, the cardinal rule applies to credit cards where the greater risk commands a bigger return.

In the first place, a credit card exposure is a clean loan or one without collateral. This means if a borrower defaults, the lender has very little chances of collecting on the loan.

The inherent nature of the business already entitles it to go further up the risk ladder compared to regular banking, where real estate and even goodwill can be counted as collateral.

How much really?

To have an idea of how much banks and their credit card subsidiaries earn from the credit card business, one can compare credit card rates with the "risk-free" treasury bill rate.

Two weeks ago, treasury rates stood at an average 5.288 percent for the three-month tenors, 6.366 percent for the six-month bills and 7.06 percent for the one-year instruments.

Most credit cards charge 3.5 percent a month, or 42 percent a year.

With the increased risk resulting from the indiscriminate issuance of credit cards, banks and their credit card subsidiaries may be deducting an average 22 percent, as they anticipate that eventually, this is the portion that they will have to write off. In effect, credit cards have a spread of 13 percentage points over risk-free rates at current prices.

Six months ago, treasury bill yields dropped to historic lows, which meant the spreads were even greater. Yet, consumers found no relief.

Espenilla said credit cards also had other costs, like marketing, where many invested heavily in the race to get more customers.

This operation, however, may be financing itself, as many cardholders suspect their providers of selling their personal information to other sales groups.

Less drastic

For now, the central bank is addressing the issue of high credit card charges with less drastic measures.

In August, it released a circular requiring banks and their credit card subsidiaries to tighten their screening processes and stop giving pre-approved credit cards.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said credit card firms agreed to establish a common information database that would allow them to peek into the credit history of each other's customers.

With the information sharing, credit card firms will know whether a particular applicant has defaulted on his or her obligations with his or her current credit card provider.

Reyes said the financial sector would eventually establish a common credit bureau where borrowers would have a credit rating that would determine their eligibility for additional loans.

These measures, Reyes said, were still aimed at gradually bringing down credit card rates.

So the key, according to Espenilla, is moderation for regulators, restraint for credit card users and discretion for credit card providers.

In the same way that one does not hand over a gun to a person with suicidal tendencies or give shabu or ecstasy to a drug dependent, credit cards are also capable of destroying lives.

RP to sidestep commitments on tariff cuts

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES is poised to sidestep its commitment to the World Trade Organization (WTO) to lower all duties to a maximum of 5 percent by 2004 by maintaining most favored nation (MFN) tariffs across the board on all products from non-Asean countries.

In the upcoming Asean Free Trade Area, where the country is bound to reduce its duties under the common effective preferential tariff (CEPT) to no more than 5 percent by next year, only petrochemicals will be allowed to maintain their current duties at 15 percent for resins and 5 percent for finished plastic products to be reviewed annually.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said the Philippines would most likely seek for an extension of all existing MFN rates to ensure that the country would have a stronger bargaining position when the WTO resumes negotiations on a second round of trade cuts for industrial goods.

"I don't see how we could come to the negotiating table with a much lower tariff. We have to give something in exchange for asking for greater market access," said Aquino who chairs the technical committee of the Cabinet's Tariff and Related Matters (TRM) group.

The TRM, which will take up the committee's recommendations soon, has been urged to lay down the government's new policy on trade liberalization after the Tariff Commission was swamped with several petition for tariff delays in the past few weeks.

Aside from a strategic move for future trade negotiations, Aquino said the government wanted to defer cuts in MFN tariffs because it was leery of slashing duties in the face of eroding revenue collection and widening budget deficit. Aquino said that keeping MFN tariffs unchanged through 2004 would be a "great relief" to local industries facing stiffer competition from Asean.

Aquino said the technical committee had also recommended that only petrochemicals would keep their current duties while the rest of the industries would proceed with the CEPT tariff cuts as scheduled.

Aquino said this was the best the government could give the petrochemical industry, which had petitioned to raise duties to 30 percent up to 2010, to support the integration of the industry through the establishment of a naphtha cracker. "It is much harder to increase that to continue the existing rates because industries are already grooved into the current system," Aquino said.

Aquino admitted that keeping the status quo on petrochemicals would also mean keeping the tariff distortion where finished products are charged lower duties than basic inputs. "It's not something that is going to last and the industry's petrochemical tariffs would be reviewed annually and it would still be hinged on the construction of a naphtha cracker," Aquino said.

NTC . . .

From page B3

explanation. The regulatory body has not had any interaction with the program provider since Pollard's last letter.

"I think more than a week is a long enough time. We can't just keep waiting and waiting until Star decides to actually give us a detailed explanation. I don't know what their definition of 'soon' or 'shortly' is. The NTC has to look into this issue as soon as possible because it affects consumers,". she said.

She added that the NTC's legal department was already drafting the agency's position on the issue and its broadcast services department was also compiling data that would compare the Philippine cable television industry with those abroad.

These would be the basis for the NTC's demand letter to the Star Group after today, she said.

"We don't want to send the signal that we're interfering with businesses here. We're just being cautious. What if a program provider decides to give its programs to only one cable operator, saying its purely a business call? We can't just let that go because that will lead to monopoly," she said.

ASEAN CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS MEET
Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II (center) stresses a point to Edwin Umali (right), vice chair of the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) and the organizing committee chair of the 32nd Asean Chemical Industries Club (ACIC) Conference held at the Edsa Shangri-La. The conference, attended by industry executives of major chemical firms based in the Asean region, discussed issues facing the industry. At left is Jacinto Mantaring, chair of the ACIC and president of SPIK.

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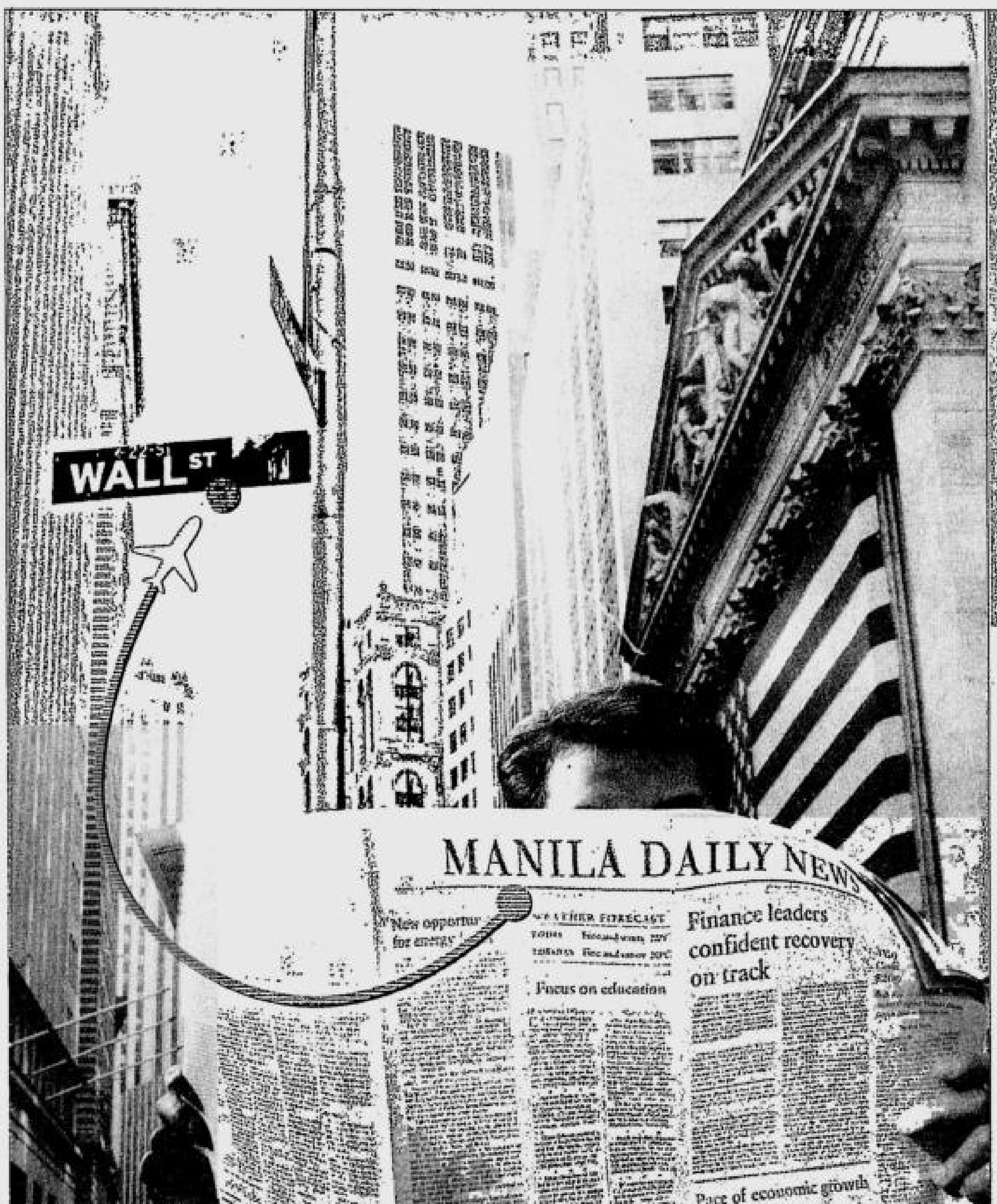
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4 groups vie for 5-hectare gov't property in Makati

By Clarissa S. Batino

AT least four property development firms, including Ayala Land Inc. and Robinson's Land Corp., are vying for the government's five-hectare prime property in Makati that used to house the International School, well-placed sources in the finance department said.

The third potential bidder, a source said, was either SM Prime or Filinvest Land Inc. while the fourth was a medium-sized developer.

The four groups, according to a senior finance official, have expressed their interest in bidding for the government's idle property, one of the supposed state jewels that the Department of Finance had been trying to dispose of in the last two years.

But a slowdown in the real estate sector stymied the government's efforts to sell the former IS property.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that the Makati City had also expressed interest in the property but has yet to make a formal offer.

The government projected that the property could generate P1 billion in additional revenues.

"We are preparing for the sale of the IS property," said the finance secretary who confirmed that some big names were keen on the property.

So far, the government has sold less than P1 billion worth of assets this year against an original target of P5 billion.

Items covered by the P2-billion privatization target for next year were still the same assets that the government had been trying to sell since year 2000. These include the state's 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co.: a stake in the Philippine National Construction Corp.; assets and stake in sequestered broadcast companies, and idle pieces of property including the IS property.

The government vowed to embark on a more aggressive privatization of state assets next year and even hired another finance undersecretary, Eric Recto, to take charge of the ambitious program.

Next year, the government said it wanted to raise an additional P15 billion from privatization on top of the programmed sale of P2 billion worth of assets.

The P15 billion will be used to finance expenditure items that were not included in the 2003 budget.

US envoy cautions gov't on IPP review

From page B1

gal's declarations of honoring the sanctity of contracts and that he was hoping that the review of the IPP contracts would have mutually beneficial results.

Still, Ricciardone called on the government to ensure fairness and transparency in the review process.

"Both parties must be honest with each other and there must be a fair hearing," he said.

The official added that American investors would be encouraged to participate in the privatization of National Power Corp.'s power plants "provided the government can succeed in its visionary plan to advance the deregulation and privatization of its power industry, and if it can sort out the current issues with current investors."

Ricciardone stressed the need for a win-win situation in the government's dealings with present investors: "It is always better to treat your current customers well than it is to try and get new ones."

For his part, CalEnergy president David Baldwin denied reports that the energy firm was planning to pull out its investments in the country due to the controversies that the company was facing.

"There is no truth to the exit-scenario rumors," Baldwin said. "We would like very much to remain and expand our business in this country."

Aspac countries urged to push trade lib efforts in Apec meet

THE PHILIPPINE government will push its call for a more active role

of Asia-Pacific economies in ensuring a meaningful participation of developing countries in multilateral trading systems during the forthcoming 10th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Mexico on Oct. 26 and 27.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said that although Apec was not a forum for negotiations, it should still support measures and policies being pushed by developing countries in multilateral trading systems such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). Roxas said the Philippines was counting on Apec to present a strong voice of commitment for three actions, namely: greater market access for products of relevance to developing countries; phasing out and elimination of trade-distorting subsidies; and special and differential treatment for developing countries.

"The holding of the forthcoming Apec should first and foremost, be an avenue to remind developed nations to practice what they preach about opening up markets and trade liberalization," said Roxas while stressing that developing countries like majority of those in the Asean had to deal with trade barriers set up by richer or more developed nations.

"It is only by fully opening up markets that Apec countries can all help one another's economies move forward and still generate jobs for its citizens," Roxas said while stressing that a top priority of President Macapagal-Arroyo is to fight poverty by creating more jobs for Filipinos through a vibrant economy.

To be hosted by Mexico this year, the 10th Apec Meet has the theme "Expanding the Benefits of Cooperation for Economic Growth and Development—Implementing the Vision" and sub-themes fostering sustained economic growth and taking advantage of the digital economy, building capabilities to reap the benefits of globalization and making Apec more relevant to Asia-Pacific communities.

Prior to the Apec Leaders' Meeting, the 14th Apec Ministerial Meeting will be held from Oct. 23 to 24. Roxas will attend together with Foreign Secretary Blas Ople the ministerial meeting along with 20 more officials of Apec economies in charge of trade and economy and foreign affairs.

According to Roxas, Apec officials have been working early this year on a host of issues including the identification of concrete measures and actions in the areas of movement of goods, standards, business mobility and E-Commerce where significant reduction in transaction costs will give the most benefits to businesses.

Roxas said the issue of counter-terrorism will be discussed and RP would definitely voice its support for measures that would curb terrorism provided that such measures would not disrupt the conduct of business in the country. "We realize that the challenges of the times require us to uphold both the goals of economic security and security from terrorism. The bigger challenge is to make the most of our limited financial and human resources to attain these two goals," Roxas said.

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2. Submit photo entry in 8R format (8" x 10"), either black & white or full color, original and not previously published in any form of print media. Each entry must include the corresponding negative or transparency

3. Contestants are required to fill out the official application form found in the tabloid, BANDERA, with their name, address, signature, contact number and attach three (3) clippings of the new BANDERA masthead.

4. Photocopies of the application form or the masthead will not be accepted.

5. Send entries to:

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Yague St. Corner Chino Roces Avenue
Makati City 1205

6. Contestants may submit as many photo entries as they want, provided that each photo entry is accompanied by one (1) official application form and three (3) BANDERA mastheads.

7. PRIZES:
Prizes are as follows:
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8. A contestant may win only once. Should one contestant win more than once, He/She will get the prize of higher value.

9. CRITERIA:

Composition:	30%
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Technical:	20%
Overall Impact:	30%

10. BANDERA reserves the right over all submitted photo entries. Entries will not be returned to their respective owners. By entering the contest, each entrant agrees that BANDERA may use his/her name or image for contest promotion.

11. Deadline for submission of entries is on 5pm of December 18, 2002. Provincial entries must allow one (1) week for mailing. BANDERA will not be responsible for any lost or delayed entries.

12. A panel of judges will determine winning photos with the presence of a DTI representative on December 20, 2002.

13. The list of winners will be published on the December 23, 2002 issue of BANDERA. Winners will also be notified by registered mail

14. All employees of Inquirer Publications, Inc., and its affiliate companies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the contest.

15. Winners should present winner's notice and two (2) valid IDs when claiming their prize. Prizes may be claimed in the following areas

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16. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Inquirer Publications, Inc. With prior DTI approval. Inquirer Publications will shoulder the 20% prize tax.

Promo period is from Sept. 23 to Dec. 18, 2002

See print ad in BANDERA for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3888, Series of 2002

Gov't interest payment hit P23B in Sept.

THE PHILIPPINE government's interest payments on its debt was higher in September than in any other month this year, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said yesterday.

"It's the highest so far in any month this year," Edeza told reporters of the interest payments. This would likely add further pressure on the fiscal deficit, which markets are keenly watching.

Edeza said the payment, estimated to have been around P23 billion, was much higher compared to the monthly average for the first eight months of the year of about P15 billion.

The higher expense was due to seasonal factors and payments for retail bonds the government had issued, he said.

He did not elaborate on what effect the payments would have on the deficit, which reached P144 billion in August. The government is due to announce the September deficit data on Wednesday. The government had set its deficit target for the whole year at P135 billion. *Reuters*

GOINGS-ON

Best employers

HEWITT Associates, a global outsourcing and consulting firm, announced the launch of the second Best Employers in Asia study, following the success of the inaugural study last year.

The Best Employer in Asia study will be conducted in eight countries: China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. It will once again be conducted with the aim to determine what makes some companies employers of choice, as well as identify the region's best employers through a detailed and independent judging process.

It will also identify the best employers in each of the eight countries included in the study. The Philippine study is being partnered by the Management Association of the Philippines. The regional study is conducted in conjunction with Dow Jones & Co. publications The Asian Wall Street Journal and Far Eastern Economic Review.

Metrobank's Kalahi program

METROBANK Foundation recently turned over 400 school desks to the Navotas National High School in support of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kalahi (Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan) program and the School Desks Project spearheaded by former President Corazon C. Aquino. NNHS principal Rosa Centeno received the 400 desks on behalf of the schools.

NNHS is one of the schools in underprivileged areas that benefited from Metrobank Foundation's support to Kalahi, an anti-poverty program of the Macapagal administration that aims to encourage various sectors to implement poverty alleviation programs for Filipino indigent communities.

MAP on Malampaya

SHELL Philippines Exploration B.V. (Spex) was hailed as a "good example for all companies in the country" by the Management Association of the Philippines.

Spex has been recognized by the United Nations with the "World Summit Business Award for Sustainable Development," which was given during the recent Johannesburg Summit by the International Chamber of Commerce and the UN Environment Program for the Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power project, which has integrated social and economic programs while preserving the environment.

EU trade chief visits China, discusses food bans

BEIJING—The European Union and China together have the potential to make an "enormous contribution" to keeping global markets open, but kinks must be ironed out before the collaboration can succeed fully, the European Union's trade commissioner said Thursday.

Speaking to about 200 members of the EU Chamber of Commerce in Beijing, Lamy said China was rapidly emerging one of the "key poles of the world economy" and praised it for trying to fulfill conditions of its entry to the World Trade Organization.

"We are following with great interest the enormous efforts China is making to put in place a stronger legislative framework," Lamy said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that China and her leadership is extremely eager to demonstrate that China will respect her WTO obligations in full."

But, Lamy said, a few "teething problems" had surfaced, mainly because China is such a vast and diverse country. *Reuters*

Qantas scraps flights in blow to Bali tourism

SYDNEY—Bali was dealt a major blow to its tourism industry Tuesday as Australian flag-carrier Qantas announced cuts to its services to the holiday isle after last week's devastating bombing.

World tourist leaders have now offered to help rebuild Bali's major industry as thousands of holidays have been scrapped in the aftermath of the Oct. 12 attack, which left at least 190 people dead, including some 90 Australians.

Qantas said it had reassessed services in the light of reduced demand in coming months and was canceling two of its four weekly return services from Sydney to the Balinese capital Denpasar.

It would also halt the weekly Melbourne-Denpasar service but would maintain Australia-Jakarta services and a weekly return service from Perth to Denpasar.

The carrier's executive general-manager sales and marketing, John Borghetti, said many customers who had booked holidays to Bali were changing to destinations such as Fiji and Queensland, and that Qantas would redirect capacity to these routes. *AFP*

Electrolux reports profit fall in third quarter

STOCKHOLM—Swedish appliance maker Electrolux reported a 35-percent decline in third quarter profit on Tuesday and predicted that demand for the rest of the year would be flat or slightly down in Europe and North America.

Electrolux said net earnings in the quarter came to 1.239 billion kronor ($132 million) compared with 1.928 kronor in third quarter 2001.

Operational earnings fell to 1.781 billion kronor from 2.442 billion, while sales were down 3.2 percent to 31.760 billion kronor.

Despite third quarter results that were below expectations, the company said it should enjoy a "significant improvement" in operating income for the full year 2002 on its ongoing restructuring measures. *AFP*

Marconi to slash more jobs as sales plunge

LONDON—Troubled British telecom equipment maker Marconi said Tuesday it was to slash another 4,000 jobs, as it revealed second quarter sales had collapsed 40 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The company said sales in the three months to Sept. 30 fell to 482 million pounds ($745 million), which represented a 6-percent decline from the three months to June.

Marconi chief executive Mike Parton said in a statement: "We held our quarterly sales decline in the core (division) to 6 percent in what continues to be an extremely challenging trading environment and aggressively managed our cost base to reflect these tough conditions.

"We made significant progress in the quarter in reducing our pre-exceptional operating losses and cash outflows and remain on track to deliver our commitments to creditors in the context of our proposed financial restructuring," he added.

The company, which said it had cut 2,000 jobs in the latest quarter, reducing its headcount to 19,000, added that it intended to lower its headcount further to around 15,000 early in the next financial year.

In August the company spelled out terms of a restructuring plan intended to slash debt but leaving existing shareholders with just 0.5 percent of the new business.

The debts are a legacy of the group's aggressive expansion drive in the United States as part of efforts to transform itself from a defense and electronics group into a telecommunications equipment maker just before the sector ran into trouble. *AFP*

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Japanese economy inches ahead; clouds gather

TOKYO—Japan's struggling economy may have narrowly avoided a summer contraction, government data showed on Tuesday, helped by an uptick in business activity and spending on services, economists remained mostly pessimistic.

Business activity crept up for a second straight month in August, according to a key government index, while demand for services also rose as consumers made their summer purchases after two months disrupted by bad weather and the World Cup.

The all-industries index, widely regarded as a close proxy to gross domestic product, rose 0.5 percent in August from the previous month on a seasonally adjusted basis, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said.

The gain suggests the economy may have scraped out a second straight quarter of GDP growth in July to September even as prospects for a sustained recovery dim due to slowing exports, a weak global economy and stubbornly depressed consumer sentiment.

"It does seem to us that GDP will be positive in Q3, both because of this report and looking at GDP component by component," said Matthew Poggi, an economist at Lehman Brothers.

"Exports have been the real driver to this point and it does seem that we haven't gotten much spill-over into the non-export sectors," he added, saying there were serious doubts over whether growth could be sustained in the year's last three months.

A separate index released by the Cabinet Office showed that consumer confidence edged up 0.3 point to 39.6 points in September on a seasonally adjusted basis from June, but the government noted that the gains were shrinking and downgraded its assessment.

"The index is at a low level and while there are signs of recovery, the gains have become smaller and attention is warranted," Yoshihiko Senoh, director of the Cabinet Office's department of business statistics, said at a briefing.

"Job and income conditions continue to be severe and we need to carefully monitor the situation," he said.

Private-sector consumption accounts for more than half of Japan's GDP, which expanded for the first time in five quarters in the three months to June. July-September GDP figures are due out on Nov. 13. *Reuters*

S. Korea c. bank sees steady growth

SEOUL—The Bank of Korea kept a brave face on Tuesday over mounting external risks threatening to derail an export-led recovery in Asia's fourth-largest economy as a new survey delivered a cautious outlook on business sentiment.

Corporate confidence remained steady at the start of the final quarter, as growing woes over the global economy and a possible war in Iraq kept manufacturers on their guard, the Commerce Ministry said in a business survey.

The caution over business prospects came as the Bank of Korea said the economy was expected to post steady growth this year and next, but also warned of rising inflation.

Growing household spending, wage and property price increases have fueled worries over inflation, prompting a local think tank to warn that interest rates might have to rise.

Murky economic signals pose headaches for a government already grappling with a nuclear weapons crisis with North Korea less than two months from a presidential election in the South.

"The weakness from the external sector is starting to have a negative spillover effect," Lehman Brothers economist Rob Subbaraman in Tokyo said.

"The stock market is quite weak. The concern is that companies, especially exporters, could start to scale back their investments and maybe lay off due to reduced foreign orders." Seoul's main bourse tumbled two percent on Tuesday to 639 points. The won gained slightly versus the dollar. Bonds jumped.

The ministry's latest quarterly business survey index (BSI) for manufacturers stood at 4.5, unchanged from the third quarter.

"Overall manufacturers hold optimism about the economy as both exports and local sales keep steady growth," said Kim Tae-wan, a ministry official. *Reuters*

China boosting M2 to beat deflation

BEIJING—China's central bank is raising money supply thresholds above earlier targets in an attempt to rid the country's economy of lingering deflationary pressures, state media said Tuesday.

The People's Bank of China announced at a quarterly meeting of its monetary policy committee that predicted broad money supply, or M2, would grow by up to 17 percent during 2002, the China Daily said.

Growth in M2, a measure which covers cash in circulation and deposits, was originally targeted at 15 percent for the year.

The paper said the measure was intended to combat deflation, which has dogged Asia's second-largest economy for almost a year despite rapid overall growth.

According to official statistics announced last week, consumer prices around China dropped 0.8 percent in the first nine months of 2002 against the same period last year, while retail prices fell 1.4 percent.

Prices have fallen continually since November 2001, despite overall economic growth of 7.9 percent for the first three quarters of 2002, well above a stated target of 7.0 percent.

"The purpose is obviously to combat deflation and problems in economic growth," said analyst Huang Jinlao of the Institute of International Finance. *AFP*

A WOMAN walks in front of a Ronald McDonalds statue in Kuala Lumpur. In 2001, the United States was Malaysia's largest trading partner, followed by Japan, Singapore, the People's Republic of China and Taiwan.

AFP

Motorola, Lucent, Nortel ink $1B in China deals

WASHINGTON—US telecom makers Motorola and Lucent and Canada's Nortel on Monday signed a series of contracts worth over $1 billion with China Unicom to install and upgrade mobile wireless systems in China.

Motorola said it won a $446-million contract to build and install CDMA (code division multiple access) technology systems in Beijing and 10 Chinese provinces.

Nortel Networks said, meanwhile, it won a $280-million contract to provide the No. 2 mobile phone firm in China with CDMA digital wireless network infrastructure equipment.

The equipment will expand China Unicom's CDMA network capacity in the provinces of Zhejiang, Shandong, Heilongjiang, Henan, Jiangxi and the Chongqing municipality.

Lucent Technologies said it received a 3.54-billion-yuan—approximately $427.6 million—contract to provide China Unicom with network equipment and services purchase framework for CDMA technology.

The network is expected to launch in major cities in China by end of 2002 and be completely finished in the second quarter of 2003.

The total capacity of the Unicom Group's CDMA network will exceed 30 million subscribers and the network will have been upgraded from the current CDMA standard.

The contracts along with several in other industries were signed in New York at a meeting of US and Chinese officials including US Commerce Secretary Don Evans and Chinese State Development Planning Commission Minister Zeng Peiyan. *AFP*

United Airlines unveils $100-M cost-cutting plan

CHICAGO—United Airlines said it would turn over certain routes to contract airlines, close three reservation centers and slash maintenance staff in a cost-cutting program that would save it $100 million annually.

The actions will help the ailing carrier, which is fighting to stay out of bankruptcy court, trim its staff payroll by 1,250.

"These actions are unfortunately necessary given the current weak revenue environment," said Glenn Tilton, United's chair, president and chief executive officer.

In this quarter, United will close down one of the airline's three Boeing 757 maintenance lines at its Indianapolis maintenance center and cut line maintenance positions by 160 due to falling demand for work on its fleet of 767s.

Beginning Jan. 7 next year, United will phase out United service to five regional airports in Oregon, Iowa and New York state and replace them with service provided by smaller regional airlines under contract to United.

The United Express carriers—SkyWest, Air Wisconsin and Atlantic Coast Airlines—will operate 50-seater jets and offer more flights than United which currently flies 100-plus seat Boeing 737 or Airbus jets on those same routes. *AFP*

Creative Technology seen recovering in fiscal Q1

SINGAPORE—The world's largest PC sound card maker, Singapore-based Creative Technology, may return to profit in its latest quarter, but its earnings outlook remains cloudy due to sluggish personal computer sales.

A Reuters poll of eight analysts found five expected Creative to post a profit or a flat outcome, before special charges, for the first three months of its financial year to Sept. 30.

But three analysts expect the firm to remain in the red when the results are reported on Friday, compared with last year's first quarter profit of $17.6 million.

Creative, known for its Sound Blaster sound cards and Nomad JukeBox portable music player, slid to a net loss of $48.4 million, or 65 cents a share, for the quarter ended June 30.

The company, which is heavily dependent on the US consumer market, said in August it expected to break even in the first quarter on revenue of $145 million to $160 million.

"Creative faces very difficult market conditions," said Netresearch-Asia analyst Russell Tan. *Reuters*

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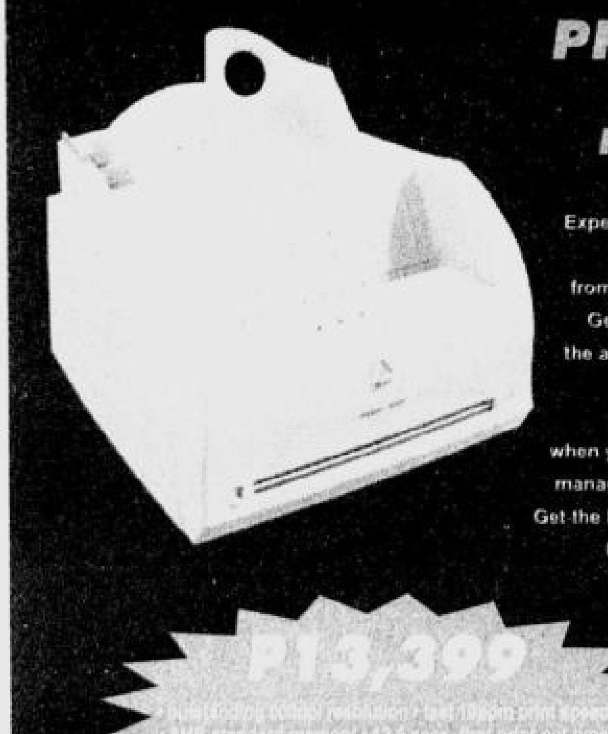

Cairns Group seeks end to agri subsidies

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia—Ministers from the Cairns Group stressed on Monday the need for "fundamental reform" of global agricultural trade, urging an end to farming subsidies.

Agriculture ministers from the 18 Latin American, African and Australasian countries that make up the group were gathered here for the group's 24th meeting.

"The fundamental reform of world agricultural trade is key to achieving the development objectives set out in the historic decision taken at Doha to launch the first Development Round" of World Trade Organization trade talks, the ministers said in a statement.

Ministers emphasized that the time was past ripe to reduce agricultural subsidies in a message directed primarily at the European Union and Japan, a source said.

"The time has arrived for political leadership by those countries with the greatest adjustments to make. This leadership must be driven with the awareness that this is one of the last chances that the WTO membership has to correct deep seated inequities in the international trading system," they said.

Noting that agricultural subsidies in the developed world totaled $310 billion in 2001, nearly $1 billion a day, the ministers said the developed world must act or the Doha round could be at risk.

"A failure to act will have serious consequences for the future of global trade," they said.

AFP

US regulators to recommend charges against Martha Stewart

HOMEMAKING celebrity Martha Stewart AFP

NEW YORK—US financial regulators are to recommend charging homemaking celebrity Martha Stewart with civil fraud over a suspicious share sale, the Wall Street Journal said Monday.

The Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement staff had informed Stewart of their intentions, the paper said, quoting people familiar with the situation.

Stewart faces allegations related to her sale of shares in ImClone Systems late December, just before the release of damaging information that sent the share price plunging, the paper said.

A final decision on charges would have to be approved by the entire SEC in Washington, it said.

The SEC officials had issued Stewart with a Wells Notice, which gives people under investigation notice of plans to file charges and time to reply to the accusations.

Such notices usually, but not always, precede civil charges, the Wall Street Journal said.

An SEC spokesperson declined to comment on the report.

A broker's assistant, Douglas Faneuil, pleaded guilty this month to a misdemeanor charge in an apparent deal to testify against Stewart over the share sale.

Faneuil, an aide to Stewart's stockbroker at Merrill Lynch, admitted to being bought off with a vacation and other gratuities not to reveal information about insider dealing in the ImClone case.

AFP

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November 20, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
- State of E-Commerce Compliance by Philippine Government Agencies - Department of Trade and Industry
- E-Government Budget Allotment - Department of Budget and Management
- E-Banking and E-Payments - Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- E-Commerce Project Standards - National Computer Center
- RP-Web Update - Department of Transportation and Communications
- Use of VAS in E-Government - National Telecommunications Commission
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Wireless Track
November 20, 2002, 1:30-5:00pm
- The State of Wireless Technology: Multimedia Messaging System (MMS) - The Next Big Thing in Wireless
- Surviving the Advertising Slump Through Wireless Technologies
- Location-Based Services & Telematics
- Mobile Commerce: How Wireless Technology Makes Business

E-Commerce Track
November 21, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
- Electronic Cash Management: Creating Value for Your Business in the Digital Age
- Best Practices in Doing E-Commerce by Successful DotComs in the Philippines: The e-2-door.com and MyAyala.com Case Studies
- Interactive Online Banking

Internet & Web Technology
November 21, 2002, 1:30-4:30pm
- Best Practices in E-Commerce Project Management
- Implementing Logistics: A Case Study
- Web Technology and Services - Microsoft.NET

Outsourcing Track
November 22, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
- The Philippine Software Development Outsourcing Industry: A Self Assessment
- 2003 Global Forecast for IT Services Outsourcing Market
- Global Market Opportunities in Outsourced Software Development Business

Policies Track
November 22, 2002, 1:30-4:00pm
- Convergence Bill
- Optical Media Bill
- Terrorism Bill
- Cyber Crime Bill

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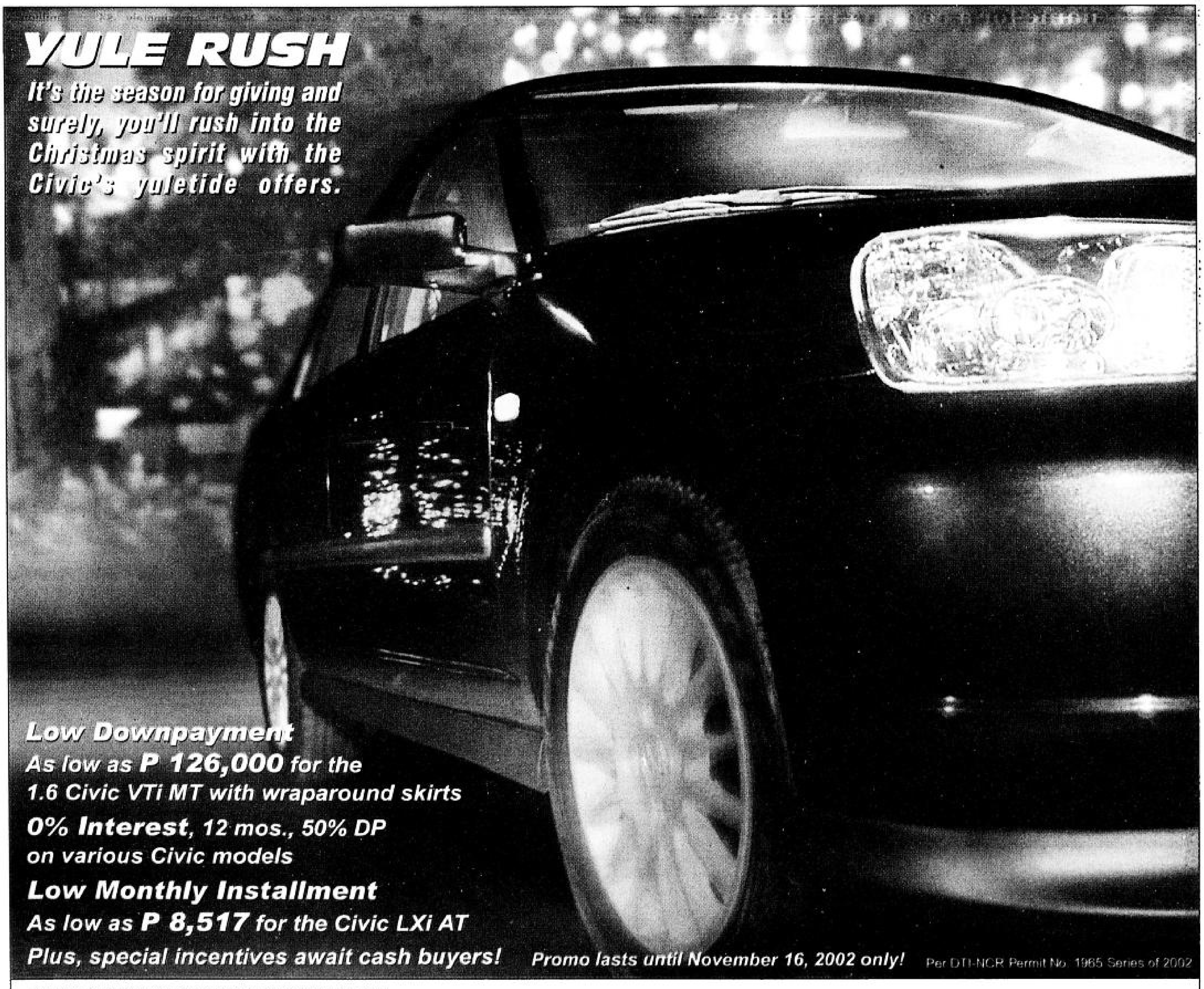

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late RUDOLF VONTOBEL was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc#44, Page#10, Book#42, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Berlin R. dela Cruz of Las Pinas City. (PDI-October 16, 23 & 30, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NARCISO N. MIRABUENO SR. was extrajudicially settled by his heirs on Sept. 16, 2002 per Doc. 229, Page 47, Book CCLXXII, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Erlinda B. Espejo of Quezon City PDI-Oct. 16, 23 & 30, 2002

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
ILOCOS TRAINING AND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
San Fernando City, La Union

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

October 17, 2002

The Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center thru the Bids and Awards Committee is inviting bids from accredited contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and Interagency Committee with a license & registration of at least "Medium A" buildings for the following projects:

PACKAGE #1: a. Construction of Administrative Building (Phase I)
b. Renovation of PT building
PACKAGE #2: a. Construction of Surgical Building (Phase II)
b. Construction of Covered Walkway
PACKAGE #3: a. Renovation and Repair of the OPD-ER

The dates to be followed are:

1	Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (bring original Copies of Contractor's license) & issuance of eligibility documents	submit to Engr. Danilo Rivera/ Mr. Robert Mendoza at the Maintenance Office 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. of November 6, 2002
2.	Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents	November 15, 2002
3.	Posting of Eligible Contractors	November 22, 2002
4.	Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	November 27, 2002
		(at ITRMC Conference Room)
5	Pre-bid Conference	November 29, 2002 at 2:00 p.m
6	Deadline of Submission of bids	December 13, 2002 at 2:00 p.m
7	Opening of Bids	December 13, 2002 at 2:00 p.m

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand pesos only (P5,000.00) per package.

The Committee on Bid and Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the Government. The ITRMC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

(PDI - Oct. 23 & 30, 2002)

(Sgd.) HAZEL A. BALBIDO, MD, FPPS
Chairperson BAC

Republic of the Philippines
DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Km. 5, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City, Philippines
Tel. No. 221-9400 (connecting all departments)
Tel. Nos. 221-62-18 to 19 (Regional Training Center, Madapo Hill, Davao City)
Fax: (82) 2264885

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Notice is hereby given to all interested contractors under PCAB Category Medium A and below with specialty on Electrical for the Upgrading of Electrical Facilities of Tugbok Production Well (PW) Nos. 1 & 2, Panacan Production Well (PW) Nos. 1 & 2, and the proposed Site Development (Electrical Works) of Production Wells @ Malagos, New Loon and Alambre, all in Davao City.

APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

UPGRADING OF ELECTRICAL FACILITIES:	
● Tugbok PW No. 1	Php 235,790.81
● Tugbok PW No. 2	341,204.22
● Panacan PW No. 1	270,686.78
● Panacan PW No. 2	270,686.78
SITE DEVELOPMENT (Electrical Works)	
● Production Well @ Malagos	270,686.78
● Production Well @ New Loon	421,166.68
● Production Well @ Alambre	421,166.68

TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT – Php2,231,388.73

Pre-C/Eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD BAC-B office starting **October 23 to November 6, 2002**, during its business hours. Deadline for submission of Pre-C/eligibility documents will be on or before November 13, 2002. Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference and Opening of Bids will be announced later.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/ informality of the bids received and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO
Chairman, DCWD BAC-B

(PDI - Oct. 23 & 30, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Corazon Aro Talento was extrajudicially settled and distributed among her heirs as per Doc. No. 1672, Page No. 56, Book No. 92, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Leonardo I. Irapta of Makati City. (PDI-10-9,16,23,2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

MERB# 299969 in the name of Ian A. Pacana - 100 shares

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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EARN &TRAVEL 09194018441

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OBITUARIES

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In Loving Memory
On the 26th Death Anniversary of

ADALIA B. PEÑAFLORIDA

Who passed away
on 24th October 1976

Masses will be offered, Thursday, October 24, 2002 at the following:

Santuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park*	12:15 noon
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills*	7:15 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, *Magallanes*	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Beautiful Love, *Merville*	6:00 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, *U.P.*	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church, Pototan, *Iloilo*	5:30 a.m.
St. Clement's Church, La Paz, *Iloilo*	5:30 p.m.

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

"And with a word he stole Christ's heart and 'opened up for himself' the gates of heaven"
Saint Josemaria Escrivá
The Way of the Cross, XII, 4

In Loving Memory

On the 1st Death Anniversary of Nacho

IGNACIO MA. ORTOLL y MUÑOA

Jan. 26, 1982 – Oct. 24, 2001

Mass on October 24 at 6:30 p.m. Saint John Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati

Masses also at:

6:00 p.m.	Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park; St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana, Ayala Alabang; St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes Village; Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, Santuario del Santo Cristo, Blumentritt St., San Juan; St. Andrews, Reposo St.; Our Lady of Remedies, MH del Pilar St., Malate
6:15 p.m.	Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills
6:30 p.m.	St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang

Engr. URBANO "Bening' S.A. CASTILLO

(Former Provincial Engineer of Pampanga)

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 20, 2002 at the age 83.

His loving wife Irene and children Zeny and Tony Carlos (+), Yeng and Elpie Lagman, Beda and Andy Lacap, Rex and Ellen Castillo, Evelyn and Jeff Jantrakul, Beth and Ed Yabut, Lot, Irene and Andrew Quijano; Grandchildren Lyan, Dianne, Maan, Joan, Ann, Sheryl, Paul, Jay, Lauren, Ryan, Lisa, Randy, Jr., Austin, Enzo, Vanjo, Ina, Miggy and Andrei; Siblings Francia, Jesus(+), Iding , Mameng, Rosing, Cion, Puring, Ondic, Angel, Jonas, and other relatives request friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in the state at the family residence at Poblacion, Macabebe Pampanga.

Interment will be announce later.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
LIVERATO L. BELLO	Oct. 23	8:00 AM	Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park San Fernando City, La Union	St. Joseph Village, Catbangen, San Fernando City
SIMPLICIO B. PERALTA, SR.	Oct. 24	9:00 AM	Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park San Fernando City, La Union	Dallangayan Este San Fernando City
IGNACIO S. BADAYOS	Oct. 23	8:00 AM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park Calamba City	Alls St. Carls III Canlubang, Laguna

www.holygardens.com

The Board of Trustees, Officers and Employees of
ALALAY SA KAUNLARAN SA GITNANG LUZON, INC.
(ASKI)

deeply mourns the demise of

NORBERTO "BERT" DELA ROSA DIEGO, SR.

Its Founding President

Who peacefully joined our Lord on October 22, 2002 at the age of 82.

His remains lie in state at the Ground Floor of Diego Building, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

A burial Mass will be celebrated on October 27, 2002 (Sunday) at 1:00 p.m. at the Dambana Ng Ina Ng Laging Saklolo, Cabanatuan City. Interment follows at 2:00 p.m. at Gapan Memorial Garden, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija.

"In Christ all shall be made alive..."
Corinthian 15:22

Ladislao Ortiz Jose

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 21st of October 2002 at the age of 92.

His wife Lucia Galvez-Jose; children July and Lou Agravante and Loly; grandchildren Christine, David, and Luisa request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., South Wing, Chapel A-3, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Quezon City on Thursday, October 24, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

ASUNCION ARENAS SORIANO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 21, 2002 at the age of 68.

Her bereaved daughter **Ma. Theresa S. Pangan**; brother **Tomas**; sisters **Felisa**, **Olympia**, **Antonia**, **Juanita** and **Gliceria**; cousins, grandchildren and other relatives and friends requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 26, 2002 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

GINA L. DELOS SANTOS
Terminated
August 28, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public, most especially to the Policyholders of **BF Life Insurance Corporation**, that **Gina L. Delos Santos** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with the Company in whatever capacity effective on the date of her termination.

Any transaction made and entered by Ms. Delos Santos shall not be honored by the Company.

(PDI - Oct. 23, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **GERALDINE YRASTORZA DABA** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **CARMEN GERALDINE** to **GERALDINE** in the birth certificate of **CARMEN GERALDINE SALCEDO YRASTORZA** who was born on 15 July 1961 at Perpetual Succour Hospital, **Cebu City** and whose parents are **CARLOS TORRES YRASTORZA** and **ERLINDA ROA SALCEDO**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than 25 October 2002.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - Oct. 18 & 23, 2002)

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KALAW
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6360219, 6360220

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 6

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID G6-202-012

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-GENCO 6 invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE		ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 12, 2002; 10:00 AM	
A1	1 LOT	SPARE PARTS FOR RECTIFIER/CHARGER MITSUBISHI GS TYPE SGF3-160-150A	3MAK-02-0513
		DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 12, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A2	2 SETS	DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURE TRANSMITTER AND 2 SETS OF PAPERLESS RECORDER	3MAK-02-0475
		DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 13, 2002; 10:00 PM	
B1	1 LOT	BENTLY MACHINERY DIAGNOSTIC ANDRE FOR WINDOWS SYSTEM, MAKE : BENTLY NEVADA	3MAK-02-0497
		DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 13, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B2	2 SETS	COMPRESSED AIR SYSTEM	3TIW-02-0095

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following schedule
B1 — October 28, 2002; 10:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room
B2 — October 28, 2002; 11:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 starting **October 17, 2002**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40"**.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One percent (1%), Bank Guarantee – One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC-Genco 6 reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.H. HERRERA
Chairman—BAC

(PDI – Oct. 15 & 23, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) LOT AFP COMMUNITY AREA NETWORK (CAN) with an approved budget of Twenty Six Million Eight Hundred Eighty Thousand Pesos (Php 26,880,000.00) under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers/integrators of said equipment shall be entertained.

Registration of prospective bidders and issuance of bid documents shall start on **October 16, 2002** and a second publication on **October 23, 2002** until **November 6, 2002** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check payable to the AFP.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 6, 2002 at 2:00 PM** (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bidders shall be allowed to inspect the existing AFP Network Management Unit (NMU) upon purchase of bid documents on a designated schedule as determined by the BAC.

Deadline for submission of Bid Documents (First Stage) is on **November 21, 2002** at **9:00 AM** (local time) and the Opening of Bids shall immediately follow at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **NARCISO L ABAYA**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Oct. 23, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR EN BANC MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2002

Present:
Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.
Commissioner Luzviminda G. Tancangco
Commissioner Rufino S.B. Javier
Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain
Commissioner Resurreccion Z. Borra
Commissioner Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.

On Official Business:
Commissioner Ralph C. Lantion

xxx xxx xxx

02-0130. IN THE MATTER OF THE MEMORANDA OF DIRECTOR FELY J. ANGELES, DIRECTOR MA. JOSEFINA E. DELA CRUZ AND DIRECTOR FERDINAND T. RAFANAN CONCERNING RESOLUTION NO. 01-1098, DATED SEPTEMBER 6, 2001 RELATIVE TO THE LEGAL FEES AND CHARGES AND CLARIFICATION ON THE FILING FEE FOR ELECTION PROTEST FILED WITH THE MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS OR THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS INCLUDING BARANGAY AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIVE POSITIONS.

This pertains to the Memoranda of Director Fely J. Angeles, dated September 6, 2001, Director Ma. Josefina E. dela Cruz dated October 15, 2001 and Director Ferdinand T. Rafanan dated August 15, 2002, all concerning Resolution No. 01-1098 entitled: "In the matter of the recommended increase in the rates of fees and charges pursuant to Comelec Resolution No. 4503 promulgated 18 July 2001.

The pertinent portions of the memoranda reads:

Director Fely J. Angeles (ECAD)

"xxx

For one, while the subject schedule was published in a newspaper of general circulation, the possibility is not remote that courts in distant localities may not have made aware of the same.

For another, if payment of appeal fees are made with the lower courts after the effectivity of the new schedules, the lower courts, which are not fully aware of the changes in the fees payable, may assess the fees based on the old schedule. This would result to the payment of an insufficient amount of appeal fees that, under the new rules, may be a ground for the dismissal of appeal.

In order, therefore, to serve the ends of justice, the following recommendations are hereby respectfully made:

1. *The copies of the new schedule of fees be furnished to all lower courts (Regional, Metropolitan, Municipal and Circuit Trial Courts);*
2. *In the event that an appellant made payment of the appeal fee with the lower court in the amount provided under the old schedule, the appellant be directed to pay the deficiency provided that the amount required under the old schedule has been fully paid with the lower court.*

Director Ma. Josefina E. dela Cruz, Clerk of the Commission and Acting Comelec Secretary.

> *"xxx The undersigned would like to invite the attention of the Commission to the* ***Special cases – filing fee and legal research fee****, provided for under Section 5 (a) and (b), Rule 40 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure, respectively, embodied in the 30 July 2001 memorandum xxx which* ***were not included in the approved schedule of fees and charges****. Furthermore, it is recommended that Resolution No. 01-1098 be reviewed prior to its publication considering that the Law Department was not represented in the Committee that reviewed and upgraded the fees and charges of the Commission. It appearing that the Law Department also renders services to the public that require the payment of prescribed fees, it is imperative that the said department be consulted.*
>
> *Relatedly, there are other contentious cases not defined in the Comelec Rules of Procedure but which are classified as Election Matter and where the filing and legal research fees should be paid. It is recommended that the proposed filing and legal research fees be pegged at P1,000 and P50.00, respectively.'*

Director Ferdinand T. Rafanan, Regional Election Director, NCR reads:

> "xxx xxx xxx
>
> *Under Resolution No. 01-1098 dated September 6, 2001 fees are prescribed for the issuance of certified true copies of documents specified therein. In order that this resolution shall be effectively enforced, undersigned recommends that* ***OR Number, dated thereof, and name of the Comelec personnel*** *issuing the receipt should be printed or written in such document. Absence of these data from the face of the document shall render it* ***deficient, inefficacious, unofficial and unacceptable for whatever purpose****.*
>
> xxx xxx xxx"

The dispositive portion of Minute Resolution No. 01-1098 provides:

> *'the Commission* ***RESOLVED****, as it hereby* ***RESOLVES****, to* ***approve*** *and* ***adopt*** *the attached Schedule of Fees and Charges per Rule 40 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure submitted by the Committee tasked to review and upgrade the fees and charges of the Commission, consisting of six (6) pages and forming an integral part of this resolution, except in the case of payment for certified transcript of stenographic notes which shall be at the rate of ten (P10.00) pesos for each page of not less than two hundred and fifty words payable at the Cash Division, ASD provided, however, that one-half of the total charges shall be paid to the Commission and the other half to the stenographer concerned through the usual process of disbursement by check.*
>
> *All fees and charges of the Commission shall be paid at the Cash Division, ASD.'*

A cursory review of the Schedules of Fees and Charges attached to Minute Resolution No. 01-1098 dated September 6, 2001 disclosed that the filing and legal research fees for special cases were not included pursuant to Rule 40 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure.

Further, filing and legal research fees for Election Matter (contentious cases) should be included. Significantly, fees and charges for technical examination, examination of election returns and VRRs at the instance of a private party be included among the fees and charges to be collected.

More importantly, we find that the parties and even the trial courts were confused on the application of the rule on the payment of filing fees for election protest cases. Thus, pursuant to the caveat of the Supreme Court in the case of Soller vs. COMELEC[1] errors in the payment of filing fees is no longer excusable.

Considering the foregoing, the Commission **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, as follows:

1. To amend the Schedule of Fees and Charges per Rule 40 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure subject of Minute Resolution No. 01-1098, as follows:

AMENDED SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES PER RULE 40 OF THE COMELEC RULES OF PROCEDURE AND OTHER NON-LEGAL FEES AND CHARGES

SOURCE OF INCOME	RATE
I. FILING FEES	
A. SPECIAL ACTIONS	
1. Petition to deny due course/Cancel Certificates of candidacy	P 3,000.00
2. Proceedings against Nuisance Candidates	3,000.00
3. Disqualification of Candidates	3,000.00
4. Petition to Postpone/Suspend Election	3,000.00
5. Petition for Failure of Election	3,000.00
6. Petition to Annul Election	3,000.00
B. SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS	
1. Petition to annul list of voters	3,000.00
2. Petition to register political parties	5,000.00
3. Petition to register sectoral party, organization or coalition	3,000.00
4. Petition to cancel/revoke registration of items 3 & 4	3,000.00
5. Petition to accredit as major political party	5,000.00
6. Manifestation to participate under the party-list system	3,000.00
7. Petition to accredit Citizens' Arm	3,000.00
8. Petition to revoke accreditation as Citizens' Arm	3,000.00
9. Certification of Registration of Political party	5,000.00
C. SPECIAL CASES (PRE-PROCLAMATION CONTROVERSIES)	
1. Petition against illegal composition or proceedings of the Board of Canvassers	3,000.00
2. Petitions covering items (b), (c) & (d), Section 4 Rule 27 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure	3,000.00
3. Petition for correction of manifest errors	3,000.00
4. Petition to annul proclamation	3,000.00
D. ELECTION MATTERS	
1. Petition/Oppositions pertaining to Recall Elections, Initiative, Plebiscite, Referendum; and	5,000.00
2. All other contentious matter not falling under items A, B & C hereof	3,000.00
E. ELECTION and QUO WARRANTO CASES	
1. Election Protests	5,000.00
2. Quo Warranto cases	5,000.00
3. Counter protest	5,000.00
F. SPECIAL RELIEF CASES	
Special Relief Cases (SPR)	3,000.00 (For every petitioner)
*With prayer for INJUNCTIVE RELIEFs	200.00 (additional)
G. APPEAL CASES	
Appeal Fee	
1. For election cases appealed from Regional Trial Court	3,000.00 (Per Appellant) Appeal fees shall be paid directly to the Cash Division, Commission on Elections in cash or in Postal Money Order.
2. For election cases appealed from courts of limited jurisdiction	3,000.00 (Per Appellant)
3. For election offense cases appealed from the office of the Provincial and the Chief State Prosecutor	500.00
H. INTERVENTION	
Petition/Protest in Intervention	3,000.00
II. LEGAL RESEARCH FEES	
Special Actions, Election Matter, Election Contests and Quo Warranto, Intervention, Election Cases appealed from the Regional Trial Court, Courts of limited jurisdiction, Office of the Provincial Prosecutor and the Chief of State Prosecutor, and Special Proceeding and Special Cases (Pre-Proclamation Controversies) and Special Reliefs	
Legal Research Fee for every case to be paid by the petitioner, protestant, intervernor-petitioner/ protestant and applicant.	50.00
III. INCIDENTAL FEES AND CHARGES PERTINENT TO CASES IN ITEM No. 1	
1. TECHNICAL EXAMINATION FEES (ELECTION RETURNS/VRS)	
1. Compensation of:	To be computed: (a) per actual expenses to be incurred relative to the gathering, transporting and securing the ballot boxes containing the Election Returns and/or VRR's from the point of origin to Comelec, Manila and (b) Overtime services rendered for item 1
a) Handwriting Examiner	
b) Document Examiner	
c) Clerk/Typist	
d) Ballot Box Custodian	
e) VRR/Election Returns Custodian	
2. Cash Deposit	
2. EXAMINATION OF ELECTION RETURNS	
1. Compensation of:	To be computed: (a) per actual expenses to be incurred relative to the gathering, transporting and securing the ballot boxes containing the election returns from point of origin to Comelec, Manila; and (b) Overtime services rendered for item 2
a) Clerk of the Commission	
b) Stenographer/Clerk	
c) Ballot Box Custodian	
d) Official of the Commission directed to bring the election returns	
2. Cash Deposit	
3. PROCESS SERVER	50.00 (For first 4 kilometers) 10.00 (For succeeding km.)
4. WITNESS	(Actual travelling expenses by the cheapest means of transportation)
5. SUMMONS FEE	100.00 (per respondent charged to petitioner)
6. REVISION FEES	
1) Compensation of REVISION COMMITTEES	(per precinct) For clustered precincts additional P90.00 for chairman, P60.00 for Revisors and P40.00 each for the Recorders, Typist, and Ballot Box Custodian.
a) Chairman	180.00
b) Revisor-Protestant/ Protestee	120.00
c) Recorder	80.00
d) Clerk/Typist	70.00
e) Ballot Box Custodian	70.00
2) Storage fee for contested ballot boxes	3.00 (per ballot box)
3) Photocopying fees Compensation of	
a) Supervisor	20.00
b) Recorder	15.00
c) Ballot Box Custodian	10.00
d) Asst. Ballot Box Custodian	10.00
4) Cash Deposit (This amount shall be applied to the controversy especially in the delivery of ballot boxes from point of origin to Comelec, Manila and vice-versa)	To be computed per actual expenses to be incurred relative to the gathering, transporting of the ballot boxes from the point of origin to Comelec, Manila
7. BAILIFF FEE	50.00 (for first 4 kms.) 10.00 (for succeeding km./s) For Metro Manila only Processes served out of town by personal service when requested shall be at the expense of the requesting party.
8. OTHER RELEVANT INCIDENTAL EXPENSES RELATIVE TO AN ELECTION PROTEST/SPECIAL RELIEF AND ELECTION APPEAL CASES/ SPECIAL ACTIONS (SPA)/SPECIAL CASES (SPC)/SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS (SPP)	To be computed per actual expenses to be incurred
IV. LEGAL FEES	
1. For filing of a Motion for Reconsideration of an Interlocutory Order	300.00
2. For filing a Motion for Reconsideration on a decision, order or resolution	500.00
3. For certified transcript of stenographic notes (TSN) per page of 250 words Payment for certified TSN shall be at the rate of ten (P10.00) per each page of not less than two hundred fifty (250) words payable at the Cash Division, ASD, provided, however, that one-half of the total charges shall be paid to the Commission and the other half to the Stenographer concerned through the usual process of disbursement by check.	10.00
4. For certified copies of any record, decision, ruling or entry of the Comelec succeeding pages	100.00 (for the first 10 pages) 2.00
5. For every certificate not on process (inactive file, undocketed & terminated cases) first 10 pages succeeding pages	60.00 2.00
6. For every search of any record (per page) of election cases	20.00
7. For every search of any record pertaining to election cases and reading the same.	50.00
8. For machine copy of any list, document or records, using machines of requesting parties per page	1.00
9. For machine copying of any list documents or records, using machines and materials of the Commission, per page	2.00
10. For every issuance of certified true copy of VRR or CVL Form 1-B or certification as registered voter.	75.00
11. Filing Fee for application for Gun Ban Exemption	500.00
12. For every "READ ONLY" diskette for CVL data	15.00 (per precinct)
13. Authentication of ballots being xeroxed by requesting party on order of a Division/En Banc	2.00 (per ballot)
V. NON-LEGAL FEES	
Laundry service fee for occupants of BAGUIO Cottages.	
a) Comelec organic personnel (throughout the duration of stay in the cottage)	50.00
b) Non-Comelec (per occupant/day)	100.00
succeeding per day	50.00

2. To clarify that the filing fee for election protest cases filed with the Municipal Circuit Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts, Metropolitan Trial Courts or the Regional Trial Courts involving barangay and municipal elective positions is exclusive of the fees provided for under Rule 141 of the Rules of Court as amended and other pertinent administrative circulars of the Supreme Court.

   Non-payment of the correct filing fee as herein provided is a ground for the dismissal of a protest case.
3. To direct the Electoral Contests Adjudication Department to furnish copies of the new schedule of fees to all lower courts (Regional, Metropolitan, Municipal and Circuit Trial Courts);
4. To establish a Comelec Development Fund for filing fees collected to be deposited under the said fund in the amount computed, as follows:

Filing Fee	Comelec Development Fund	P2,500.00	P4,500.00
	General Fund	500.00	500.00
Legal Research Fee	UP Law Center	50.00	50.00

5. To require all concerned Comelec officials/ employees issuing Certification of any official document of the Commission in accordance with Resolution No 2048-A (In Re: Rules and Regulations Governing Public Access to Records of the Commission on Elections) and/or acting on the request for a reproduction of a copy of a document by private persons, to indicate or stamp the following data on the face of the document/s.

Requested by : __________
*Issuing Officer : __________
O.R. No. : __________
Amount : __________
Date Issued : __________

* Name of officer issuing official receipt should be printed legibly on the O.R. before affixing his signature.

6. To direct all field offices/departments in the Main and field offices of the Commission issuing Certification of any official document of the Commission and/or acting on the request for a reproduction of a copy of a document by private persons as indicated in item No. 4 above to submit to the Commission En Banc thru the Office of the Commission Secretary a monthly report thereon including the corresponding fees and charges collected therefor using the attached format.
7. To direct the Cash Division, ASD, to submit to the Commission En Banc thru the Office of the Comelec Secretary a monthly report on collections received for legal and non-legal fees and charges including the remittance thereof by field offices.

All concerned officials/employees are hereby directed to strictly comply with Items Nos. 5, 6 and 7 above.

Let the executive Director implement this resolution and the Education and Information Department publish this Resolution in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SO ORDERED

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

(On Official Business)
RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

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[1] (339 SCRA 685)

(PDI - Oct. 23, 2002)

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Filipino communities offer services for caregivers in Canada

FILIPINO community centers in Canada are offering free services and self-development programs for Filipino caregivers working in the country.

This is according to Maple Leaf Training Center, a Quezon City-based skills training center offering six-month caregiving courses for employment in Canada.

The center pointed out that the Toronto-based Kababayan Center is giving free orientation sessions, language orientation classes, health education and wellness activities, counselling programs, employment programs, computer courses, and other special projects such as self development programs and civic programs.

The Silayan Center, also based in Toronto, is offering newcomer settlement crisis intervention programs, special interest programs such as technical, communication and life skills enhancement for job readiness; community education, heritage enrichment programs, and art programs.

While Silayan Center aims to give information and services for the needs of new immigrants, senior citizens, the youth, victims of abuse and unemployed, Kababayan Center officials said they felt the need for "a program which will make the integration of the Filipino newcomer into the Canadian Society in a painless and positive process of acculturation."

Meantime, the Maple Leaf Training Center is offering the courses at its head office at Room 410, Verde Oro Building, 535 Commonwealth Avenue (near Our Lord's Grace College), Diliman, Quezon City (9519823-25, 455-2308).

The center has branches at Room 310 PRB Building, Gen. Aguinaldo Highway, Palico, Imus, Cavite (near Rojonet Restaurant and LTO, 046-9702676), and at 113 Upper General Luna Street, Baguio City (074-4470736).

INQUIRER
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INQUIRER SUPPORTS ATENEO ACP

The Ateneo Alternative Class Program (ACP) is the largest annual university-wide event of the Ateneo de Manila University. It is a 2-decade-old tradition of breaking away from the usual school routines, where students sign up for and attend classes not offered in the regular academic curriculum. Titled 'Pista', this year's ACP will be a week-long activity and will be highlighted by the 'Pyesta', a culminating event where there will be booths, demos, and presentations. The Alternative Class Program will be taking place from Nov. 18 to 23. Shown at the contract signing (seated, from left) are ACP deputy head Steph Limuaco, Inquirer AVP for marketing and classifieds Donald Lim, and ACP marketing officer Mara Cabayan (right). Standing (from left) are ACP marketing officers Claro Ortiz and Van Benavidez, and Inquirer corporate relations assistant Kelly Ortiz.

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MAX'S RESTAURANT TO OPEN IN MEYCAUAYAN

Max's Franchising Inc. (MFI) has recently signed a franchise contract with Emerald Food Corp. (EMC), owner of soon-to-open Max's Restaurant in Meycauayan, Bulacan. Sealing the agreement with a handshake are franchisee Gail Santos (EMC) and Jim Fuentebella (MFI). With them are Robert Ocampo (MFI) and Patrick Richard Aguilar, managing director (EMC). To be located at the former Bulacan Second Development Bank Building, McArthur Highway, Calvario, Meycauayan, Bulacan, Max's Restaurant is expected to open this November. For information on franchising, call Max's Franchising Inc. at 832-1991 local 150 and look for Lance Zafra.

Caha de Oro closet and drawer design patented

THE INTELLECTUAL Property Office (IPO) granted the patent for Caha de Oro's unique knockdown closet and drawer design. Under the patent, Caha de Oro secures ownership of the unique combination of a soft vinyl closet with a solid drawer or set of drawers base. The design features the practicality of a moveable closet; the beauty of color and whimsical or classic decorative prints on the vinyl closet covering for easy and instant harmony with home interiors; and the security of drawer boxes that can be locked.

The patent also covered Caha de Oro's value-for-money innovations. The public may not see the difference outright, but certain design elements like powder-coated tubes inside and out makes for a cleaner and longer-lasting finish that holds corrosion at bay. These tubular frames are also specially constructed to provide ample support and durability. The anti-static agents prevent dust from stubbornly clinging to the surfaces of the plastic drawers for easy cleaning. The vinyl closet likewise can be interchangeable for new cover designs. These innovations distinguish the line from like products in the market.

The IPO patent also assures consumers that their Caha de Oro was manufactured with strict compliance to the provisions stated in the laws and regulations of the certifying body, and registers the product as a utility model. As such, the patent grants Caha de Oro maker Orocan the exclusive rights to make, use, and sell the utility model in the Philippines.

The Caha de Oro line debuted with the Caha de Oro Drawers, which later grew to include the Millenia (linear design feature); Shelf and Drawers; to the current Closet and Drawer with Lock.

MEGAWORLD SUPPORTS BANTAY KATARUNGAN

Megaworld Foundation, the socio-civic arm of leading urban property developer Megaworld Corp. was a recent donor of Bantay Katarungan, an independent, non-partisan organization that seeks to reform and modernize the Philippine justice system. Megaworld Foundation president and Megaworld Corp. senior vice president Cirilo Manlangit (right) hands over the donation to Bantay Katarungan principal and Manila North Tollways Corp. president Jose de Jesus at the Megaworld board room. Besides contributing funding for worthwhile causes, the Megaworld Foundation provides scholarships to poor but deserving college students and is actively involved in various programs ranging from environmental conservation to medical assistance for street children and the disabled.

'ENOUGH' FROM NET 25, DWDM 95.5

Net 25 and DWDM-FM 95.5 hosted the special advance screening of 'Enough' from Columbia Pictures International in cooperation with Robinsons Movieworld, Sunsilk Silky Black, Magnolia Cheese, Purefoods Corned Beef, Dari Crème Lite, Essenxa, Bioessence, Go Internet Cards and Chowking. Seen at the advance screening are VJ Jade, DWDM-FM marketing manager Jhune Galang, Columbia Pictures International's Ronnie Domingo, DWDM DJ Moodie Jam, AVC vice president Ana V. Cawaling, Net 25 marketing director Caesar R. Vallejos and Net 25 finance manager Persida Velacruz.

INFORMATICS OPENS AT ROBINSONS PLACE

Informatics Computer Institute recently celebrated its grand opening at the Level 3 Mezzanine of Robinsons Place in Ermita, Manila. Shown, from left, are Jacinto L. Gan Jr., Councilor Arnold S. Vicencio of Malabon, Leo Riingen, president, Informatics Philippines, Singaporean Ambassador to the Philippines Jacky Foo, Miriam Quiambao, and Jacqueline Marzan-Tolentino.

BITS Clips

BIMP-Eaga Orchid Congress

A SPECIAL event awaits orchid growers and enthusiasts when the 4 BIMP-Eaga (Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines, East Asean Growth Area) Orchid Congress is held Oct. 25 to 31. The venue is Yogyakarta, the cultural capital of Indonesia. Delegates will be accommodated at the Natour Garuda Hotel, one of the grandest hotels in Indonesia. A delegation from the Philippines is attending. This orchid congress is the extension of three previous successful events held in Davao City, in Sarawak and Brunei. As a combined celebration with the Indonesian Orchid Show 2002, there will be excellent opportunities for selling, buying, and meeting potential business partners. The orchid exhibition will be opened by President Megawati Sukarno Putri. Sightseeing is scheduled to the famed Borobudur Temple. For details, call Adam's Express Travel at 521-1651/38.

Mansmith & Fielders seminar Oct. 25

SALES representatives, key account officers and managers are invited to attend the "Strategic Account Development and Management" seminar of Mansmith and Fielders (723-6671 or 722-2318) on Oct. 25 to 26 at the Mandarin Hotel. The seminar will teach them how to become strategic account developers and managers and how to effectively sell multi-layered accounts like companies, the government, and other organized structures. Speaker Rowen Untivero, senior consultant and partner in Mansmith and Fielders Inc., will discuss how to close sales, creative techniques on obtaining data from the prospective account's organization, effective presentation methods, and the significance of communication as a foundation for effective selling in strategic account development.

GILBEY'S ISLAND PUNCH LAUNCHED

Eat Bulaga threw a tropical party, complete with a live feed from festivities in Davao, to launch the new Gilbey's Island Punch. 'Say goodbye to messy, time-consuming, trial-and-error mixing – Gilbey's has just come up with the two delicious and ready-to-drink mixes, the Gilbey's Island Punch in Pineapple and Pomelo flavors,' said Badjik Mina, special project manager (second from left). With him are Vic Sotto, Angeli Bautista, Chuck Janolino, marketing director of International Distiller's Philippines and Joey de Leon. Gilbey's Island Punch is now available at all sari-sari stores and groceries nationwide.

25 YEARS OF ODYSSEY

On Aug. 30, Odyssey, the number one music and video store, celebrated it's 25th anniversary at the Culture Club over at Araneta Coliseum. Attended by the whole music industry, it was definitely a milestone in the company's history. The acts that played during that night were Nina, Barbie's Cradle, Retrospect, Imago, Patricia Javier and Silk. Shown are (from left) Lisa Fonacier, Teresita Fonacier, Nina, Jay Fonacier and former BIR Commissioner Dakila Fonacier.

3-S Foundation seminar

THE STROKE Survivors Support Foundation Inc. (or 3-S Foundation) invites all stroke patients and their caregivers to a Seminar on Occupational & Physical Therapy scheduled at the Aerobics Room, 8th Floor, Medical Arts Building, Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, Quezon City, on Friday, Oct. 25, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The guest speakers are Tyrone A. Factora, OT staff member, Veterans Memorial Hospital, Pam Palanca, OT staff, Philippine Heart Center, John C. Rasco, chief physical therapist, Philippine Heart Center, and Abelardo C. Torres, clinical OT supervisor, Veterans Memorial Hospital. All stroke patients are invited to become 3-S Foundation members. For further information, call Arlene or Jim at 951-76-94.

BREAKFAST CHAT

Top HR exec explains trends in human resources management

By Ricky B. Garcia

WHAT'S the latest on human resources or HR management? To learn cutting edge trends in this field, Studio 23's Breakfast host Ria Tanjuatco and McGraw Hill marketing executive Jenny Javier interviewed Evelyn Lozada in the recent People at Work segment in Breakfast.

Lozada is the senior HR manager of International Container Terminal Services, Inc. and the current president of the Philippine Society of Training and Development or PSTD.

Below is the gist of their interview.

PaW: What are the current trends in human resource management?

Lozada: Let's look at the trends based on three major HR functions: human resource planning and acquisition, compensation and benefits, and training and development.

In human resource planning and acquisition, the emphasis now is to hire applicants based on their attitudes and behavior rather than on their work experience and educational background.

In compensation and benefits, the most recent development is the competency-based, skill-based salary structure. This system provides additional pay for the employee for every additional skill he learns. Another is the broad banding system, wherein job grade levels are collapsed into fewer job grade levels. For example, a classification scheme of employees' ranks originally composed of 15 job levels may be reduced to only three job levels.

In benefits administration, the newest program is the use of "buffet" or "cafeteria" benefits. In this scheme, the employee is given the chance to choose benefits appropriate for himself. Another alternative is the "lifestyle benefit" program which seeks to create a balance in the work and personal life of the individual. The employee is given the option to choose benefits that will suit his life style.

In training and development, the emphasis has shifted from activity-based to results-based with much importance given to its return on investment (ROI).

PaW: How do you design and implement HR policies to bring your organization to the future?

Lozada: If you are unionized, consult the union for support in the implementation of policies, specifically if there are changes. Also, conduct employee surveys, so that there will be a sense of ownership among the employees.

PaW: How do you provide superior and innovative human resource management?

Lozada: The human resource management department should act as a consultant and an adviser to its internal clients, the line managers, who should become the real implementers of HR practices and activities.

PaW: How do you link your business and HR strategies and mange your culture to encourage innovation and change?

Lozada: All HR programs should be geared towards the company vision and business needs. HR should trigger and support any change in the organization.

PaW: How do you become a strategic partner in linking human resources directly to the vision and strategy of your organization?

Lozada: First, management has to change its traditional view of the human resource management department as an administrator of policies and procedures, employee welfare and the like. It must view HR as a strategic partner. Management must also view employees not as costs but as valuable assets and resources.

LOZADA

PaW: How can HR executives network with other HR practitioners?

Lozada: Join prestigious organization locally and internationally. Locally, we have the Philippine Society for Training and Development (PSTD) and internationally, we have the Asian Regional Training and Development Organization (ARTDO).

Going AWOL…

From page B0

should have been sensitive to the need of your employer for your skills. Your prolonged absence may have caused delays and added expenses in project implementation which may have been the reason for their threat to sue you.

Try to examine, too, the provisions in your job contract. I suggest you don't take them for granted the next time. It also pays to be knowledgeable about the personnel policies and procedures in the company you are joining..

Blanchard and Peale, in their book, "The Power of Ethical Management," propose the "ethics check" questions which can guide you when you have a dilemma between filing a leave or simply following your personal instincts and going AWOL. Let us examine your particular case against the questions.

1. Is it legal?

In your case, did you violate either civil law or company policy? In this situation, there must have been violations either of the personnel policies around absenteeism or the contract, if you signed an employment contract.

2. Is it balanced?

Was your action fair to all concerned in the short term as well as the long term? Did it promote win-win relationships? Obviously in this case, on the short and long runs, your going AWOL was not fair to your employer. Definitely, it did not promote win-win relationships, especially because they threatened to sue you.

3. Will your decision make you proud of yourself?

Did you feel good when your action was made public? Did you feel good when your family knew about it? The fact that the situation disturbs you enough to seek advice means that you are embarrassed, remorseful and fearful of the negative consequences.

My advice is for you to write a letter of apology to your former employer. The worse thing your employer can do is to have you blacklisted as an "undesirable alien" making it impossible for you to work in this country again. If you humble yourself and the company really needs your skills, they might consider rehiring you. Or if they don't rehire you, at least they would be less likely to say something negative if another company does a reference check on you in the future. But never again go AWOL.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

Career management tips

By William S. Frank

SINCE the late 1970s, I've spent more than 20,000 hours as a career consultant listening to people talk about their work. My clients have included CEOs, law firm partners, professional athletes, engineers, factory workers-you name it. They've shared their highs and lows, and their innermost secrets. They've taught me the dos and don'ts of corporate politics and given me the keys to success. Here are some ideas to stimulate thinking about your career:

1. Keep a weekly journal of your accomplishments, your "triples" and your "home runs," so you'll have them when it's time to update your resume. The hardest part of resume writing is remembering ancient history.

2. Listen 80 percent, talk 20 percent. Sometimes the best thing to say in a business discussion is absolutely nothing.

3. It's often a mistake to let work become 100 percent of your life. Extreme work enthusiasts-workaholics overproduce and overachieve, but then burn out, and some never recover. If you're working 80 hours per week, every week, something may be wrong. The Golden Mean, "Moderation in all things," is not a bad idea.

4. Career tests are like blood tests; they give you an accurate, 360-degree profile of you as a career person. Career unhappiness often comes from not knowing yourself well enough to choose the right work environment.

5. Stay focused on your gifts--your genius--not your mediocrities. Do what you're best at. Sure, you can swim upstream in a raging river. But wouldn't you be happier swimming downstream with the current?

6. Peter Drucker, the famous management consultant, said, "Do first things first, and second things not at all." That's pretty good advice.

7. Business results are important, but the people around you are important too, especially today, in increasingly team-oriented environments. Spend 50 percent of your time getting results, and 50 percent of your time developing career-sustaining relationships, both inside and outside your organization.

8. Never be unemployed, even for a day. If you lose your job, volunteer immediately to put your skills back to work, for a friend, for a consultant, in a non-profit agency-anywhere. Seek part-time, project, or consulting work as well as full-time employment, because part-time engagements tend to expand and go full time, whether you want them to or not.

(More tips next week.)

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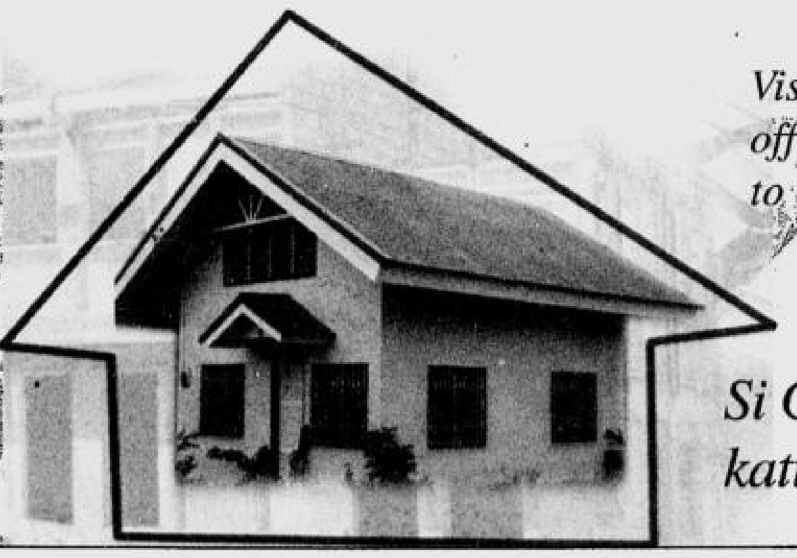
Over P150,000 - P225,000	9%	Over P150,000 - P225,000	100%	100%
Over P225,000 - P500,000	10%	Over P225,000 - P500,000	100%	90%
Over P500,000 - P2,000,000	12%	Over P500,000 - P1,000,000	90%	80%
		Over P1,000,000 - P2,000,000	90%	70%



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WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

NOTHING makes me feel quite as incompetent as the struggle to put my seven-month-old baby back to sleep at 2:30 in the morning.

It's his chosen feeding time, and even if Eisenberg, Murkoff, Hathaway and Dr. Spock are all in unison in saying that there is no physical reason why a seven-month-old should still wake up in the middle of the night for his feeding, my son Diego doesn't hear their pronouncements. His body clock is precise and consistent: 2:30 he wakes up, no matter what time we fed him last, no matter how many ounces he had before, no matter what time we put him to sleep. Yes, he wakes up, and my husband and I wake up too, two hours after midnight, just as we are approaching our REM state, no matter what kind of day we had, no matter how tired and stressed out we are, no matter how early our first meeting of the day will be.

Not an excuse

When I walked into the boardroom last week, my boss, a working mom herself, whispered as I took my seat beside her: "Ah, I recognize that look. Sleepless again?" She was right, of course. And although I was deeply grateful for the compassion, I was also certain that she still expected a good report from me. I expected nothing less from me, too. Thus, it gave me great pleasure to tell her: "Yes, I'm sleepless again but it's not because of my son." It's because I made a choice.

We've chosen the life of the sleep deprived because it is important for us that we are the last person our son remembers at night, the first faces he wakes up to in the morning, and the reassuring presence that gets up for him when all around him seems dark and lonely. Having made this choice, we face the consequences: this includes the all too real pangs of insecurity when, after more than an hour of trying to get the baby to sleep, he's still angry and you're feeling tired and helpless. It also includes the determination to keep pace at my job, to turn in work with the same consistency and standard expected from me, and to never use staying up with baby as an excuse for sloppy work. Eye bags, maybe, but never for sleeping on the job.

Rituals

These night rituals are all about commitment. My 12-year-old daughter and I have tuck-in chat time every night. She looks forward to this time, when I sit at the foot of her bed and she tells me about her bedtime thoughts. I look forward to this time too, it's my gauge if all that I do at work and at home is worth it. It's my reality check. The other night I asked her, after a particularly exhausting week at work, if she would like it if I resigned from my job. She shook her head vehemently: "It won't be like you, *momsie*. It's not *bagay*. You're job is so interesting, even for me." Phew, reality checked.

These rituals are also my greatest source of comfort. Last night, my daughter and I spent tuck-in time looking for the tickle spots in our feet. She tickled me; I tickled her. We giggled and wrestled, and I forgot all about time, fatigue, and ambition. When I finally switched off the light and got ready to go, I heard her say in the dark: "Just imagine *momsie*, when Diego is 12 years old, you would've had 24 years of tucking kids into bed."

I kept that thought in mind as I braced myself for Diego's 2:30 AM tuck.

Sunday People at Work energizes job seekers

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

By Regina Galang Reyes, PaW Editor
Donald Lim, PDI Marketing Services Head

JOB Market's power of two addresses the needs of job seekers for career options and advice. The Inquirer Job Market Metro Manila edition last Sunday went beyond classified ads, evolving into a higher level of responsiveness to our readers.

Job Market is the Inquirer's classified ads section devoted exclusively for recruitment ads. An independent pullout section that comes free with the Inquirer every Sunday in Metro Manila, it is the first of its kind in classified advertising in the Philippines. For seven years now, Job Market has proven to be a more intelligent alternative recruitment tool with features and added services that no other recruitment medium can offer.

Career advice

The Inquirer Job Market Metro Manila edition now offers career information and advice in addition to its classified recruitment ads. For job seekers to succeed in their job search, they need information on job vacancies and companies as well as advice on job hunting-from passing job interviews, developing good grooming and other tips. Jobholders who are looking for better opportunities can also get ideas from this section for their career growth.

The new service is provided by a Sunday edition of People at Work which is back to back with the Job Market. People at Work is Philippine Daily Inquirer's newest subsection of the Business Section published every Wednesday. Starting last Sunday, its becomes part of your Sunday reading fare as Sunday People at Work.

Best values

Together, Sunday People at Work and Job Market will provide the best values and the most exciting opportunities for jobholders and job seekers alike. Using this same power-packed combination, its online twon, INQ7 Interactive's www.jobmarketonline.com offers similar fare for the computer-savvy. This job site features current People at Work articles and carries an archive of past articles. It also highlights the hottest eight top companies on a hiring mode.

While the Wednesday edition brings you information and advice on the nitty gritty of work, the ins and outs of business, the ups and downs of cubicle life, the Sunday issue will provide you with reflections on the deeper side of work, tickle your funny (work) bones with the lighter side of your careers, and tool you up with leading edge workplace survival technology.

Better perspective

During this much-needed pause in the week before the next round of hectic workdays, Sunday People at Work will help working people-and all those eager to join the work world-to learn from the past week's lessons, put the problems encountered at work and at home in a better perspective, and gear up for the coming week's grueling tasks.

People at Work was first published last May 31, 2000 as a joint project of the editorial and marketing groups to address the concerns of a huge chunk of Inquirer's readers-the work force. Its purpose is to bring people-and life-to the otherwise cut-and-dried routine of business and work.

Sunday People at Work will soon be available nationwide.

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"NGOs Launch Anti-Mining Campaign"
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Tuesday, October 15, 2002

The facts are:

- The Philippines is one of the most highly endowed mineralized countries in the world, ranked 5th in worldwide gold production and 9th in copper production. In 1980, while exports of minerals accounted for 21% of total country exports. Since then, metal output has steadily declined and today only accounts for about 1% of exports, while the country's world ranking today has slipped below 20th due, among others, to insufficient local capital.
- The 1995 Philippine Mining Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, designed to invigorate the industry by attracting foreign capital, has been hailed worldwide for its strong environmental and social prescriptions. Other mineralized countries do in fact, rely on a mix of foreign and local capital to develop its mineral resources under strong environmental and social regulations.
- Five world-class metallic mines, occupying at most 5,000 heactares or 0.017 percent of the entire area of our country, can contribute $2.0 billion to exports, P20.0 billion to taxes and a minimum P150 million to community development projects *every year*, and create infrastructure, ancillary business and employment for thousands in the countryside.
- Similar to the successful Shell Malampaya project, mining companies, local or foreign, do not own the mineral resources but are contracted by government to develop the minerals for the benefit of all under terms similar to other mineralized countries.
- Our country must use its available resources to spur economic growth and alleviate poverty, already at acute levels particularly in the countryside. The minerals industry can significantly contribute to this effort.

IN A COUNTRY SO BLESSED WITH MINERALS AND CRYING OUT FOR DEVELOPMENT, THE CALL FOR THE REPEAL OF THE 1995 MINING ACT AND THE BANNING OF LARGE-SCALE MINING IS RIDICULOUS AND TANTAMOUNT TO ECONOMIC SABOTAGE!
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- Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association
- Philippine Minerals Development Institute Foundation, Inc.
- Philippine Minerals Exploration Association
- Philippine Society of Mining Engineers
- Society of Metallurgical Engineers of the Philippines
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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◉ *Subsection Editor* **Regina Galang Reyes**

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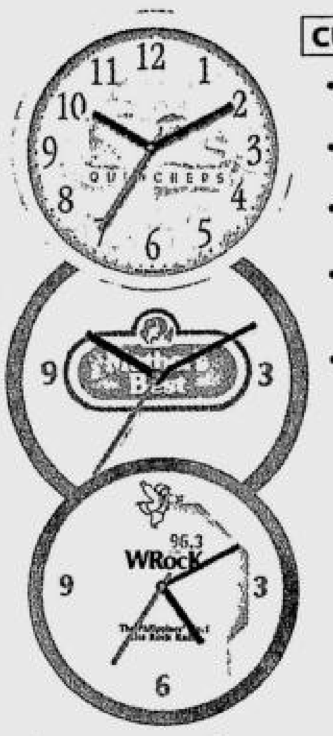

Going AWOL is unethical

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM a foreign national who used to work with a top land development company in the Philippines. I left my work without filing a formal resignation. I just informed my supervisor that I had to go on an emergency vacation. For a month I did not give my employer information about my whereabouts.

Then, I heard from my parents that my employer sent a letter asking what happened to me. The letter stated they were going to sue me in court. I immediately sent my resignation to my supervisor through e-mail, saying I am sorry for the wrong that I have done.

My question is: will I be able to come back to the Philippines and find another job again? I am afraid other companies will not accept me if they know my background. Please give me the best advice so I can learn from my mistakes.

Remorseful
Foreign Employee

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

If I were your employer and you go on AWOL or absence without official leave, I am not likely to get you back as an employee unless you present a very good reason for your absence. This issue concerns responsibility and accountability for the work. In these times when resources are so scarce, companies think twice or thrice before adding people and make sure that every person in the organization adds value.

Ethical aspect

Another aspect to be considered in this issue is ethics or doing what is right. Perhaps, at that time, you did not consider your action to be of significance. But, the right thing to do then was to inform your employer that you would be going on a prolonged absence. It was not fair to keep your supervisor guessing and wondering whether you would come back to work.

Since you are a foreign national working in the country, your employer must have hired you because you possess skills that are not available locally. With this in mind, you

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Going AWOL/ B0

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** ◎ *Chief of Correspondents* **Pam Pastor**

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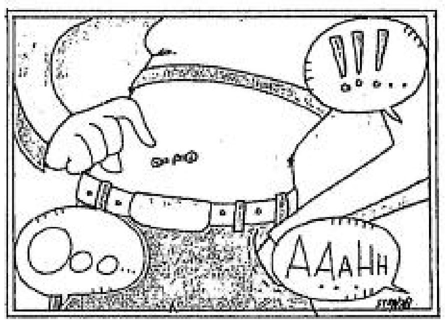
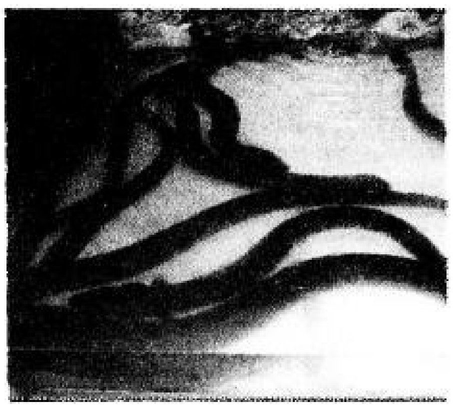
'Fear Factor,' style

to be young • to be you • to be young • to be young • To be you!
2bU!

'List down three things you would never do,' the correspondents were told during one issue-planning session. It wasn't a writing exercise. A few weeks later, they were asked to do exactly the things they had condemned in a test of courage, guts and just how far they would go for 2bU!. Read about the successes—and the failures





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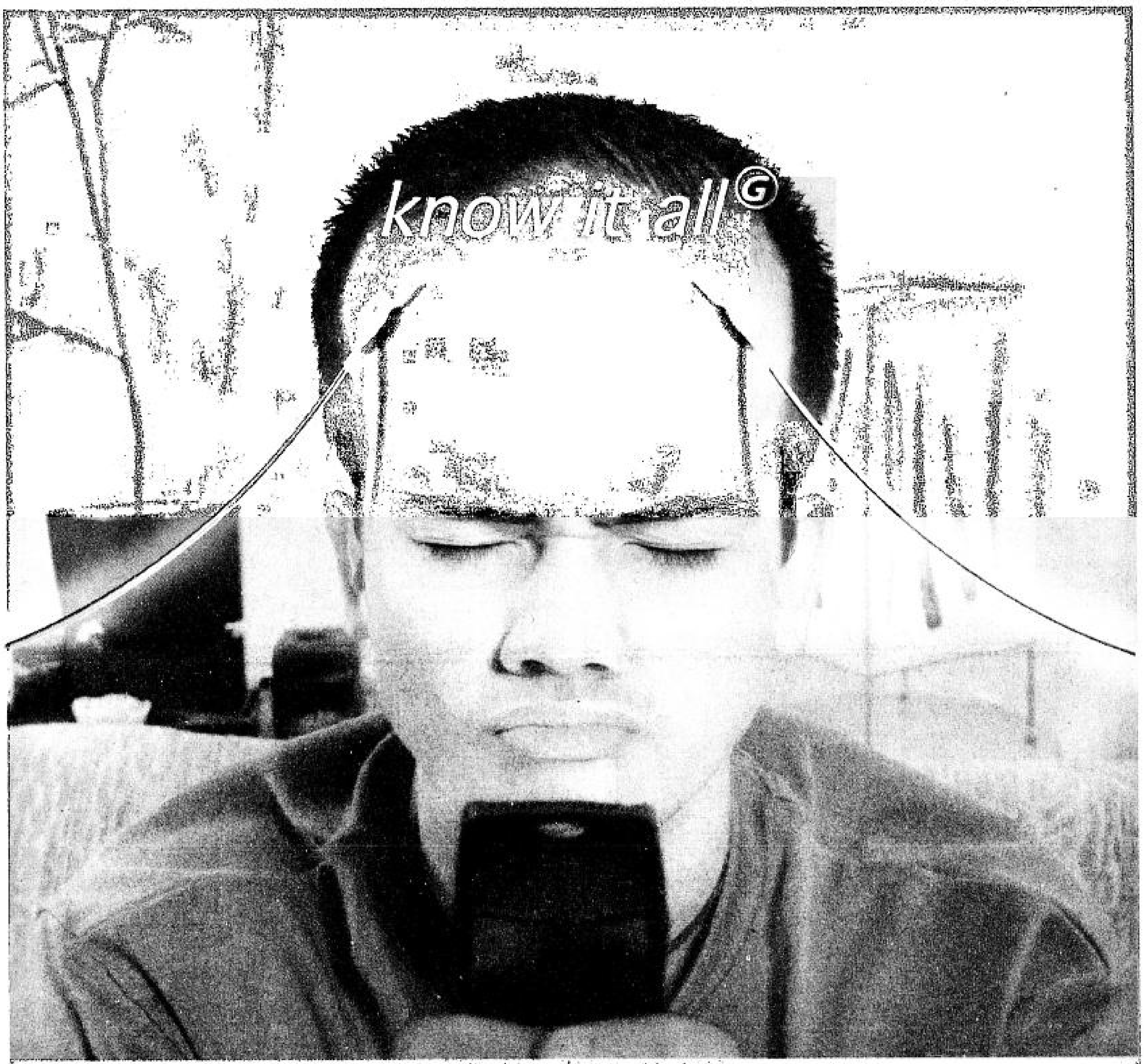

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Cheerleader with no one to root for

Text by Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Aldwin Aspillera

"BOGGLES the mind," a friend said when he found out that I tried out for the cheerleading squad in high school.

Yes, I did but didn't make the cut.

Before you start thinking I wanted to shake the pom-poms in order to be part of the "in" crowd and date popular boys from other schools, let me set the record straight: I just wanted to dance. The frustrated performer in me decided during my senior year to give cheerleading a shot. My best friend Amanda, who was a cheerleader all throughout high school, gave me a crash course in cartwheeling and cheering, all to no avail. At least I tried, right?

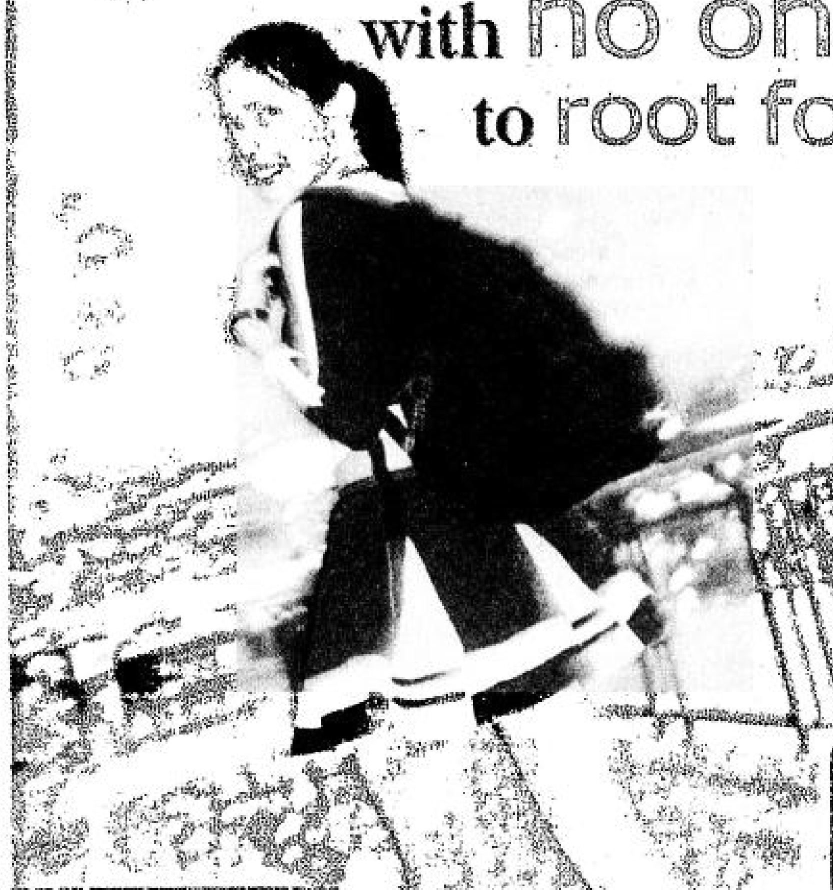
So I didn't get to wear a cheerleading uniform until 2bU! dared me to go around Glorietta in a cheerleader's outfit. All I can say is, thank God the chief of correspondents, Pam Pastor, didn't make me do it on a Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon.

My friend lent me our high school juniors' cheerdancer's uniform—blue with yellow and white piping. I had to make sure they were not the colors of any university so I wouldn't get into trouble. I could hardly put on the top. When I did, I immediately started sweating because of the thick fabric. I can only imagine what it would be like when you start dancing. The skirt was the layered, pouf-y type. I guess our team wanted more drama when they did their high kicks and splits.

We arrived at the mall about 9:30 a.m. My friend Aldwin kept pointing out that it was unfair to do the dare when there was hardly anyone around. I, on the other hand, was already nervous. I have chicken legs and there I was, in a short, pouf-y skirt. I was waiting for one of those embarrassing moments that you end up sending to the magazines' "Say Anything" pages. My usual clothes were in a backpack just in case I got too uncomfortable. The bag also doubled as a prop to made me look like a high school student on her way to school.

Cheap thrill

Going up the escalator was a funny exercise. I remembered a friend who tried to peek under the skirt of a girl who was about five steps above us once. Aldwin stayed a step behind me to discourage peeping toms (I don't understand what kind of thrill guys get from looking under cheer skirts since all they'll see are cycling shorts).



Taking my pictures wearing the uniform was hard. We ditched the SLR and decided to use an instamatic, but security guards kept giving us "the look" whenever we'd prop a shot.

I noticed how people were looking at me. It was one thing for them to stare at my blue hair, but quite another to have them looking at my skirt. At first, I was paranoid. Was it my skinny legs they were staring at or was my skirt riding up? But later on, I stopped caring. I found out that you get used to walking around in the uniform.

'It was annoying that even old men had knowing grins on their faces when I walked by'

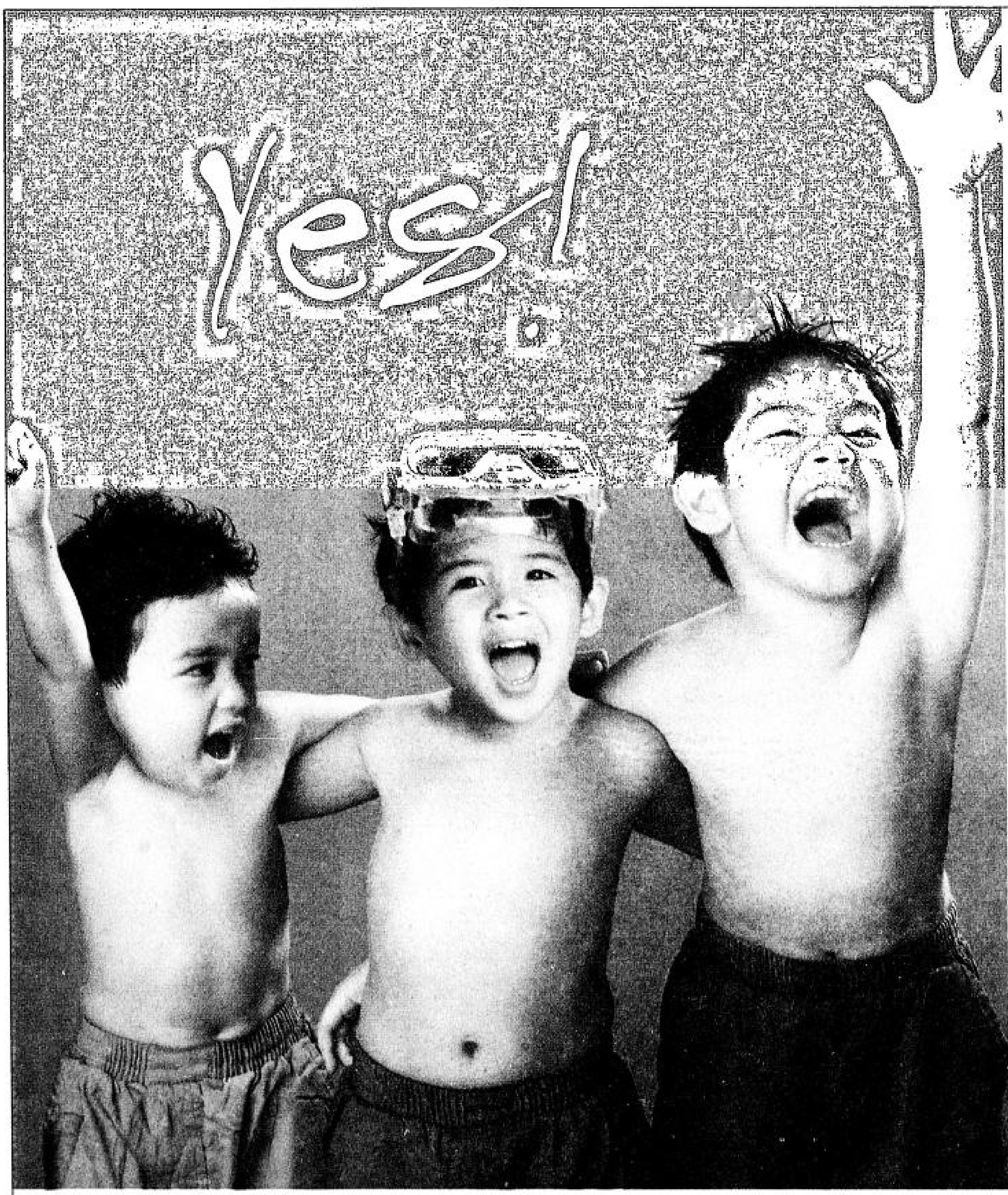
Of course, there was the occasional immature jerk who would hoot and stare like he was undressing me with his eyes. Although I didn't entirely feel violated (you had to feel sad for the pathetic losers), it became annoying that even old men would have knowing grins on their faces when I walked by.

Just as I was getting comfortable strutting around in the blue uniform, Aldwin told me to change and wear my usual clothes.

I still did not get to shake those pom-poms with face paint and glitters in my hair (that's what our senior cheerleading team did back in high school). I didn't get to scream at the top of my lungs and be the base of the pyramid during pep squad practices. In fact, I still can't seem to do those high kicks or a flawless cartwheel.

But I'm wearing a short skirt this Halloween.

Thanks to Sunshine Holganza for the uniform.



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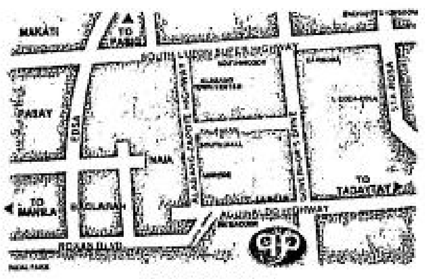

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Dared to sing in a mall videoke, he chickened out

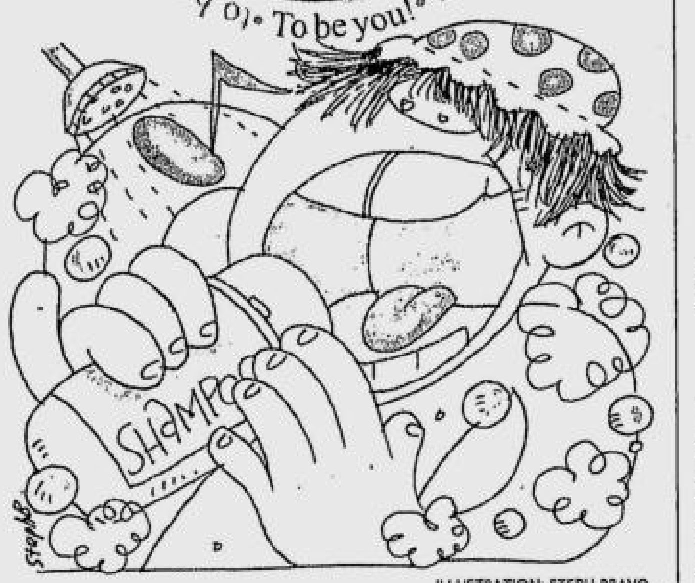


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Greatest non-performance of my life

By Mark Andrew F. Bonifacio
2bU! Correspondent

THREE things I would never do: get a tattoo, have my picture taken with any *jologs* artist, and sing videoke in a mall. I was dared to do the third.

I must admit that I had been drawn to this favorite Pinoy pastime. In fact, I used to watch the Videoke Channel (now The Lounge) at Home Cable and amuse myself watching bikini-clad girls, Japanese girls and other hilarious characters trying so hard to act in a scenic location while song lyrics were run at the bottom of the screen. However, that was only when I was alone and with nobody hearing me sing.

Though I had been a member of a choral group during my college days, I never had the guts to sing solo. I basically got cold feet whenever my turn came during rehearsals. That is why I auditioned in a choir, and having passed it, I felt a certain sense of achievement. Even now, I'm more comfortable singing with a group rather than singing alone. Neither my closest friends nor my relatives have heard me sing solo.

Because of the assignment, I visualized singing in a videoke booth. Every day, as I passed by a booth at Robinsons Galleria and a videoke bar near our home, I kept on thinking if I could have the courage to stand there, hold a mic and belt out songs by Martin Nievera, Michael Bolton or Josh Groban in front of many people. Being a spectator, I have this habit of snickering at other people trying hard to imitate Regine Velasquez, Mandy Moore, Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston. I couldn't recall how many times I've heard different versions of "My Love Will See You Through," "Larawang Kupas," "Pagdating ng Panahon" and "Stupid Love" in videoke. Most of the time, I feel like throwing a tomato at the singer or pulling the plug of the videoke machine because: the singers go out of tune, they go flat (or sharp) and they just can't sing at all—and yet they get a score of 90 and above.

So I asked myself, "What if it was I out there?" Just the thought of it made me cringe.

Fear factor

As the deadline came near, I felt like I was part of "Fear Factor." Except that there was neither Joe Rogan trying to distract me and tell me what to do nor other contestants psyching each other for $50,000. It was just I, the videoke and the spectators.

But then, I realized that it would be more sensible not to contribute to the noise pollution in Metro Manila. I would rather do my videoke singing in the privacy of my home where I could go flat, sharp or out of tune anytime without getting laughed at or being watched by so many people. Likewise, I didn't have to worry about getting a videoke score lower than 97. That also meant avoiding giving Martin Nievera a run for his money.

If videoke singing were the first dare in "Fear Factor," I would surely be the first one to take the walk of shame. But hey, this isn't "Fear Factor." There is nothing in this world that will make me do it. Well, unless J. Lo asked me.

E-mail the author at bedan_rainmaker@hotmail.com

Vamp goes to school (but nobody noticed)

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

IT was hard to go to school wearing sexy clothes. After all, my usual campus garb was shirt, comfy pants and my favorite (but already worn-out) rubber shoes. Although, occasionally, when we have a major report to do, I would wear a nice blouse, dressy pants and my lucky boots (believe me, they're really lucky). You would never see me wearing spaghetti straps or even a sleeveless top.

After so many cancellations, I finally had to undertake my mission.

I consulted so many people on what to wear. A fellow correspondent, Melissa Telan, even suggested that we went shopping. Well, that was too much. My good friend Maureen suggested I wore something I had, so I chose something that I never had the chance to wear to school before.

It was a dress I wore for my birthday party in January—knee-length, spaghetti-strapped piece with an overlap design. The neckline was plunging a bit and the fabric was sheer. I thought it was sexy enough.

But I was a nervous wreck the day before worrying about how people would react and who would see me.

V day!

I went to school in my usual getup with my "vamp" dress in my backpack. I had dark sunglasses to match my dress. Taking a deep breath, I headed for the washroom of the University of the Philippines' College of Mass Communication. As I put on my dress, I was feeling nervous. I looked at myself in the mirror and told myself, "Good luck, Sam."

Since it was finals week, not too many students were around. I slowly slipped out of the washroom and looked around. There were a few people by the public terminal (our computer access in UP) while others congregated near the sofa sets. Some were at the benches, smoking. I walked toward the short flight of stairs, trembling a bit and not knowing what to do. Are they looking at me? Are they laughing? Do I look like a freak? I nervously walked up the stairs and proceeded to the Journalism Department to pass my paper.

I guess I was just being paranoid. Nobody cared how I looked. But then, this is UP Diliman. People here go to school in sarongs. Guys go straight to school after getting out of bed. Heck, we even have naked guys running around!

My college has its share of fashionistas. Even on a regular school day, people are likely to say, "*May fashion pala dito sa inyo, eh! Bakit hindi mo sinabi?*" Seriously, everyone (maybe except me) in the college takes time to dress up. Future broadcast personalities, journalists, filmmakers and television people abound in the college, so appearance is and always will be a prime concern.

Mission successful

I guess my mission was successful even if I looked nervous parading around, wearing my dark sunglasses, particularly since nobody I knew saw me that day. Thank God! I knew I would be subjected to a whole semester of heckling if my friends had seen me. I did not have my picture taken while on my mission.

At UP Diliman, people go to school in sarong and guys go straight to their class after getting out of bed

The experience was liberating. I didn't like dressing up because I was too unsure of myself. I was stuck with my high school image and couldn't embrace the college look. The experience boosted my confidence, if only a little.

I saw myself in a whole new light. I liked how I looked during the mission. The dress brought out a whole new me. Maybe it's just what I needed to turn a new leaf.

Now I wonder what I'm going to wear when the new term opens this November. Maybe I'll wear my tube top and that hot miniskirt I saw at the mall.

E-mail the author at s_a_l_e_e_m_a@yahoo.com

Addicted and proud of it

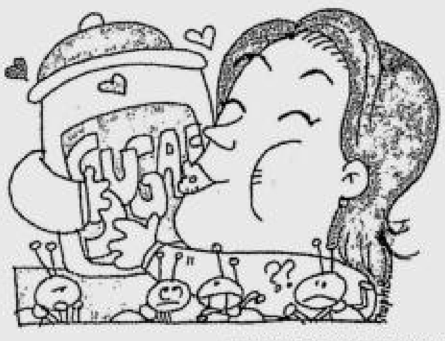


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Sheryll Lopez
2bU! Correspondent

A WHOLE week? Without sugar? You have got to be kidding me.

Don't say I didn't try. I did, as a matter of fact—for 12 hours (the longest)! Then I decided it was stupid. Who could resist a bar of Cadbury Fruit and Nut? If ever I do get through a whole week without sugar, expect to see me unconscious right in front of Cravings, where I will try to wait out the last minutes of the challenge, anticipating gorging on a whole cake to make up for all those days of deprivation. How the heck do you expect me to function without sugar? It is virtually impossible!

It's not that I'm completely unaware of the consequences of having too much sugar in my system. In fact, I am beginning to worry a lot that I already have diabetes. But I am just too chicken to undergo the tests. And I know that having too much sugar can result in a lot of unwanted pounds, which are the last things I need.

As far as I am concerned, however, sugar is a major food group. I once had this bet with my friends. If I could get through a whole week without a sugar-filled treat, they would buy me whatever sugar-loaded delight I wanted. Who could resist that?

Well, I didn't get through the week. In fact, after 24 hours, I found myself enjoying a whole pack of chocolate cookies. There was a bet? Oh, I forgot. These cookies are great!

A friend, also a sugar addict like me, told me over and over again how much she admired my courage to try to give up sugar for a week.

Good addiction

Being addicted to sugar has its advantages, believe me! That friend I mentioned, we became friends because, among other things, we both had a weakness for anything sweet. Particularly chocolate. I'd never met anyone who was as crazy about it as I was. I remember finishing a whole pack of the chocolate wafer called Hello in one sitting while watching television. I didn't count how many wafers there were in a pack. But after finishing the pack, I felt like swinging from chandelier to chandelier. Wee!

'As far as I am concerned, sugar is a major food group'

Sugar is good therapy. It is not expensive. A good bar of Cadbury only costs P25 and it gives you a natural high. You don't have to check into a rehab facility after you consume too much sugar—well, maybe a hospital, if you are diagnosed with diabetes. But come on! Who'd think such negative things when you're enjoying caramel popcorn?

As I was writing this, I had already two bowls of sweet *champorado* and two bowls of *macapuno* ice cream. I also enjoyed a cup of sweet hot cocoa. The day before, I had three huge slices of cake, a cappuccino with vanilla syrup plus a chocolate walnut brownie. Oh, I almost forgot that slice of mango cream cake, not to mention a spoonful of sweet peanut butter right from the jar. And a piece of "inipit," that small cake with custard cream and good old Oreos! Yum!

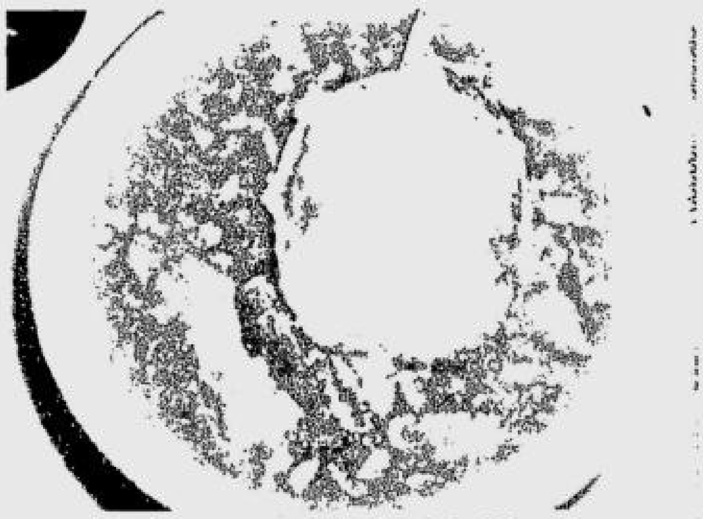
Who can't live without sugar? I definitely can't! It makes life so much beautiful. I'm not going to give sugar just yet, even for a day.

I am not ashamed to admit my addiction—I am Sheryll and I'm a sugarholic.

How does it feel when an eel slithers down your throat?

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

I DIDN'T complain when 2bU! assigned me to pick up guys in a bar last year. Nor did I flinch when I paraded in a mall wearing a maid's uniform for the jobs-for-a-day stint last month. But this latest assignment had me protesting at once: to go eat a snake.



A MODEST serving of boiled eel costs a hefty P90.

I have no stomach for extreme cuisine. Unlike some people, such as my dad who takes great pleasure in devouring queer parts from even queerer creatures, I prefer my food normal and boring, thank you very much. No chicken's essence or duck's feet for me, please. I shy away even from Pinoy delicacies like *dinuguan*, *sisig* and *balut*. Some people tell me, in between bites of pig entrails and slurps of soup made from ox insides, that I don't know what I'm missing. I smile, but think that whatever it is, I don't want to find out.

But I decided to go ahead with the dare and brace myself for the taste of snake meat. But first things first: Where do I find the snake? That task proved to be difficult. We have a dearth of exotic cuisine restaurants in Manila. Luckily, my friend Grace Saria knew about some exotic restaurants in Binondo.

Grace and I called up the restaurants to inquire about their snake dish, and we were disappointed to hear that we had to reserve days ahead. I was astounded to hear how expensive it was: at least P400.

Slimy substitute

But I didn't have time to wait several days for the snake, with my deadline looming soon. I received a tip from my friend about another snake place called Estero, a strip of eateries beside the creek near Ongpin Street. What more, the snake dish cost cheaper—and reservations weren't necessary. Grace accompanied me.

But on a Sunday, most of the eating places on the Estero are closed. The ones that were open didn't serve snakes, because they said snakes were rare and considered endangered species. They served something equally slimy and slithery: eels. Since snakes were already out of the question, I decided to have eels instead.

We ordered eels from a restaurant called Food Fare Fastfood, which sold boiled eel for P90. I was surprised that a modest slice of eel would cost that much. But eels were really expensive. At the nearby Aranque Market, Chinatown's famous wet market, eels went for P400 a kg. A regular-sized *lomua* eel, the kind that I ordered, weighed about 500-800 g, while a giant eel could weigh up to 4 kg. The eels, according to the vendors, came all the way from Cotabato.

Despite their hefty price tag, eels are very popular in Chinatown. The Chinese believe that eels, like snakes, increase a man's sexual prowess. Also, they like the taste of the fine eel meat. I have to admit, eating boiled eel didn't taste as bad as it sounded. In fact, I imagined that I was simply eating regular, standard fish. Heck, its white meat even looked like fish, but the wrinkly dark skin gave it away.

Yes, I finished the whole eel dish and I am proud to say that I finally took the plunge into the exciting world of extreme cuisine. But don't expect me salivating for eel meat soon. Or snakes for that matter.

E-mail the author at melissatelan@yahoo.com

THE AUTHOR takes her first bite of eel meat.

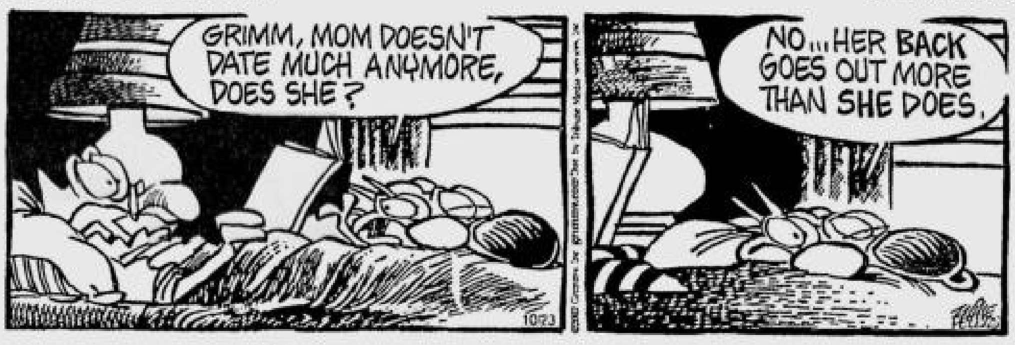
PHOTOS BY GRACE SARIA

Does eel bode ill for the palate? No, it's tasty and delicious—up to an extent

BEFORE they started swimming in the author's intestines

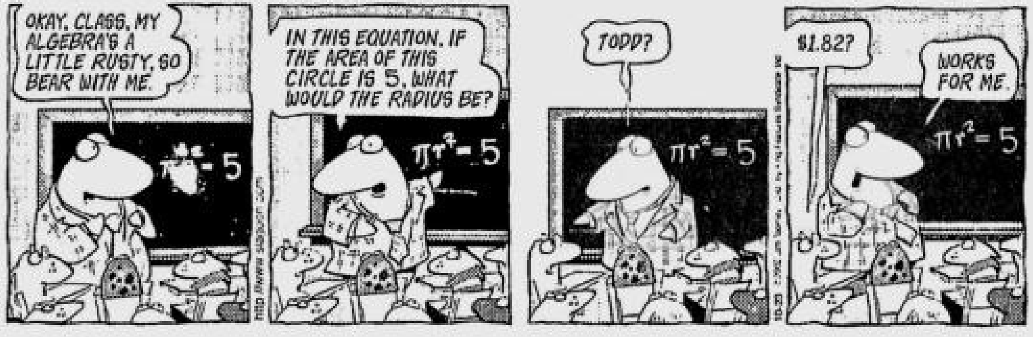
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, MOM DOESN'T DATE MUCH ANYMORE, DOES SHE?
NO... HER BACK GOES OUT MORE THAN SHE DOES.
10/23

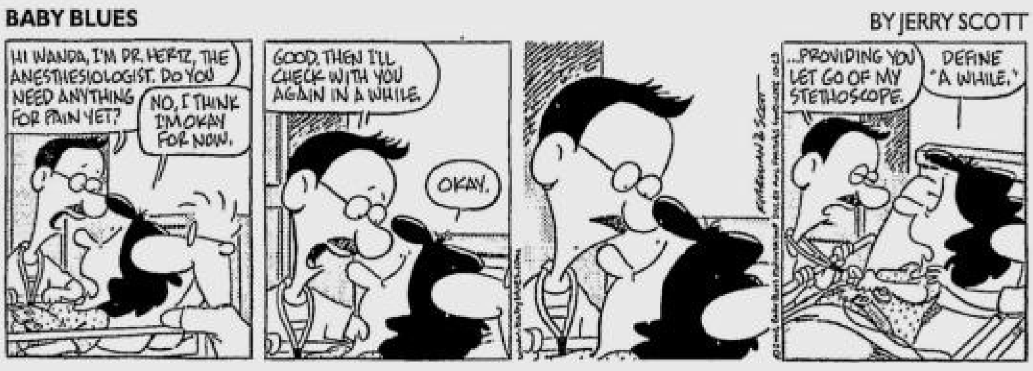
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, CLASS, MY ALGEBRA'S A LITTLE RUSTY, SO BEAR WITH ME.
IN THIS EQUATION, IF THE AREA OF THIS CIRCLE IS 5, WHAT WOULD THE RADIUS BE?
πr² = 5
TODD?
$1.82?
WORKS FOR ME.

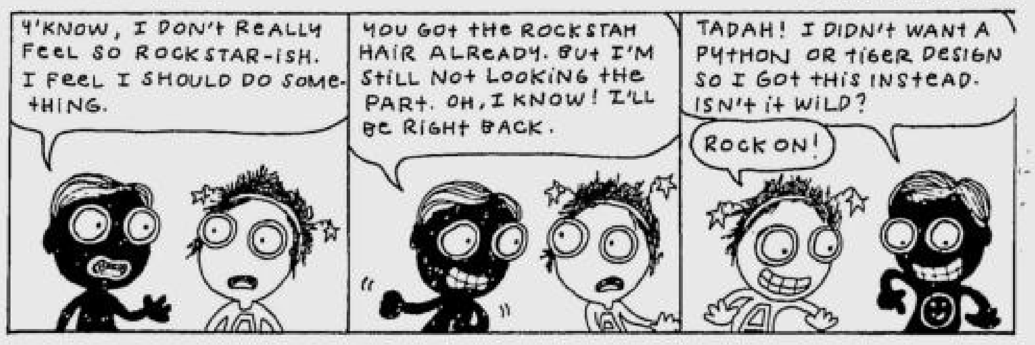
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI WANDA, I'M DR. HERTZ, THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST. DO YOU NEED ANYTHING FOR PAIN YET?
NO, I THINK I'M OKAY FOR NOW.
GOOD. THEN I'LL CHECK WITH YOU AGAIN IN A WHILE.
OKAY.
...PROVIDING YOU LET GO OF MY STETHOSCOPE.
DEFINE "A WHILE."

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Y'KNOW, I DON'T REALLY FEEL SO ROCKSTAR-ISH. I FEEL I SHOULD DO SOMETHING.
YOU GOT THE ROCKSTAR HAIR ALREADY. BUT I'M STILL NOT LOOKING THE PART. OH, I KNOW! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
TADAH! I DIDN'T WANT A PYTHON OR TIGER DESIGN SO I GOT THIS INSTEAD. ISN'T IT WILD?
ROCK ON!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Johnny Carson, Dwight Yoakam, Pele, Weird Al Yankovic

Happy Birthday: If you let your personal life slip, you will discover that is the greatest loss. Include the ones you love in the things you do in order to build a stronger relationship. Your strong need to have security and stability in your life can be achieved if you are willing to make time for those in need of your help. Your numbers are 7, 12, 29, 34, 36, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can pick up some overtime today. Channel your energy wisely and score points with the boss. Don't depend on co-workers to help. You have the skills to complete the job on your own.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): This will not be the day for hasty decisions. Your partner may push buttons that absolutely infuriate you. Think before you speak or act. Shopping will cost you more than you bargained for.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Try to keep your feelings out of your professional life. Your mind will not be on the job. Don't get intimately involved with a client or co-worker.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be drawn to events that concern children. Participation will give you a new lease on life. New relationships will evolve through group activities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can expect opposition from family as well as colleagues. Take some time out and don't worry about the opinions of others. As a diversion, catch up on your reading and letter writing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Visit friends whom you don't get to see often. They will be happy to see you and you will have a great time. You may want to take a look at courses offered at your local college to learn some new skills.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You always seem to spend more than you make. It's time to consider putting money into long-term investments. Be careful not to exaggerate when dealing with your lover.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can spend a passionate evening with someone you cherish if you make your plans early. Do a little investigation if there is someone you work with that you don't trust. Your perceptions may be accurate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may find that female colleagues will be more help than you anticipated. If you have treated them as equals, you will be able to count on their loyalty. This could make your job easier and more pleasant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be prepared to jump quickly if you wish to stay in the forefront of your industry. Entertain those with whom you wish to close deals.

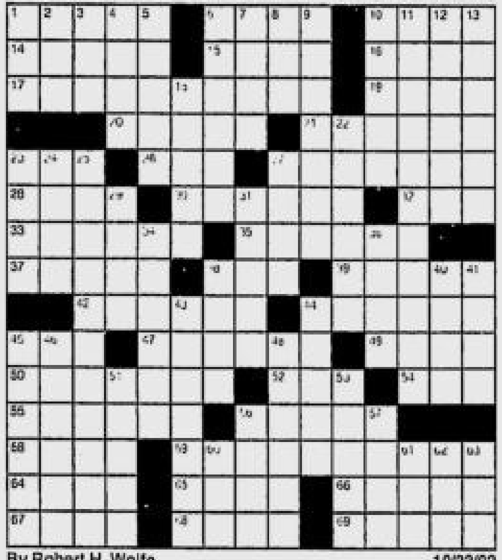
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone you live with may cause drastic alterations in your usual routine. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions at work. It's time to talk, figure out what's going on and see what concessions can be made.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your social skills will open up all kinds of possibilities . You can get ready to celebrate your new direction. Travel is in order, so make sure your passport is valid.

Birthday Baby: You are clever and cautious, prepared to take the safe route but capable of handling whatever comes your way. You will be stubborn when it comes to doing what you want, but you'll always go the extra mile.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

10/23/02

ACROSS
1 Unit of magnetic flux
6 Borodin opera, "Prince __"
10 Exxon, once
14 Exclaimed in pleasure
15 Cyrano's feature
16 Defunct
17 Heavy starter?
19 Present
20 Stair element
21 Astonishes
23 Ger. auto
26 Sea eagle
27 Nocturnal noisemakers
28 Unlikely
30 Trader
32 Pretoria's nation: abbr.
33 Makes joyous
35 Fragrant blooms
37 Formal opinions
38 $ dispenser
39 Grassy plain
42 Organic compound
44 Closed up
45 Mil. address
47 Catch in a setup
49 Rachel or Simon
50 Ring official
52 Driving area
54 Colts
55 Fillings
56 Drastically reduce
58 Health resorts
59 Mongolian topping?
64 Domesticated
65 Melodramatic exclamation
66 Flynn of film
67 Liturgical vestments
68 Occupancy fee
69 Dispatches

DOWN
1 As well
2 Long period
3 That girl
4 Latvian
5 Idolize
6 Wacko
7 Well-behaved
8 Columbus sch.
9 Change walls
10 __ Rice Burroughs
11 Course for conquerors?
12 Rescuers
13 Black Sea port
18 Geeks
22 Mental confidence
23 Sired
24 African nation
25 Destructive entree?
27 Willowy
29 End of cigar?
31 Take in pants, for example
34 Restaurant
36 Long nail
38 Chip in chips
40 Roman emperor
41 House numbers?
43 Type of general
44 Simple weapon
45 Awn
46 E-mail correspondent?
48 After all this time
51 Soothes
53 Zigzag turns
56 Lee or Kenton
57 Loser to the tortoise
60 Pub choice
61 Decorative vase
62 Atlantic food fish
63 Golfer Ernie

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	A	M	■	E	T	A	L	■	D	A	W	E	S
T	O	T	O	■	D	O	V	E	■	E	V	A	D	E
O	D	O	R	■	I	D	E	A	■	B	O	R	G	E
P	A	P	E	R	B	A	C	K	W	R	I	T	E	R
■	■	■	S	A	L	T	■	■	H	I	D	■	■	■
M	A	T	■	N	E	E	D	L	E	S	■	F	A	N
A	D	H	O	C	■	■	E	E	E	■	E	R	G	O
J	A	I	L	H	O	U	S	E	L	A	W	Y	E	R
O	G	R	E	■	R	F	K	■	■	T	E	E	N	S
R	E	C	■	P	A	T	S	I	E	S	■	R	T	E
■	■	■	S	O	T	■	■	O	N	E	A	■	■	■
G	E	N	T	L	E	M	A	N	F	A	R	M	E	R
A	D	O	R	E	■	A	G	I	O	■	E	A	S	E
L	I	N	E	R	■	R	E	A	L	■	A	L	A	N
S	T	E	W	S	■	S	E	N	D	■	S	T	U	D

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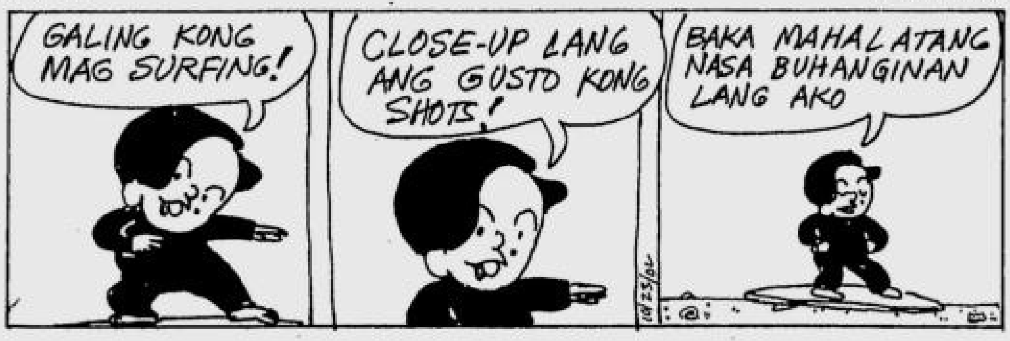
10/23/02

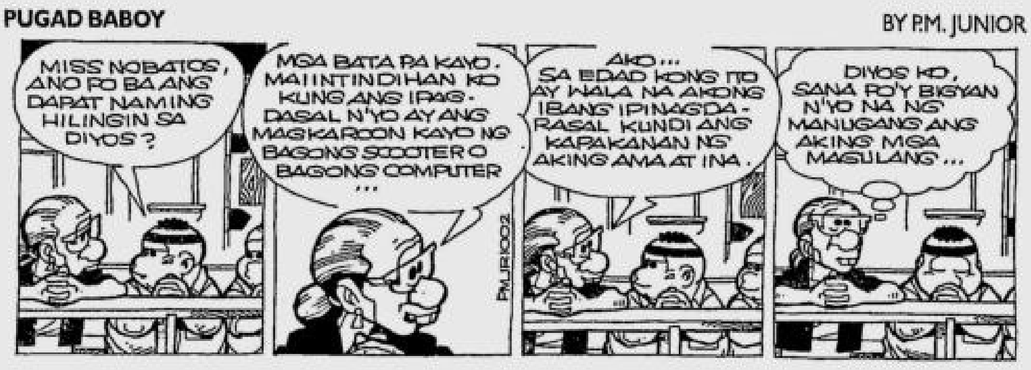
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GALING KONG MAG SURFING!
CLOSE-UP LANG ANG GUSTO KONG SHOTS!
BAKA MAHALATANG NASA BUHANGINAN LANG AKO

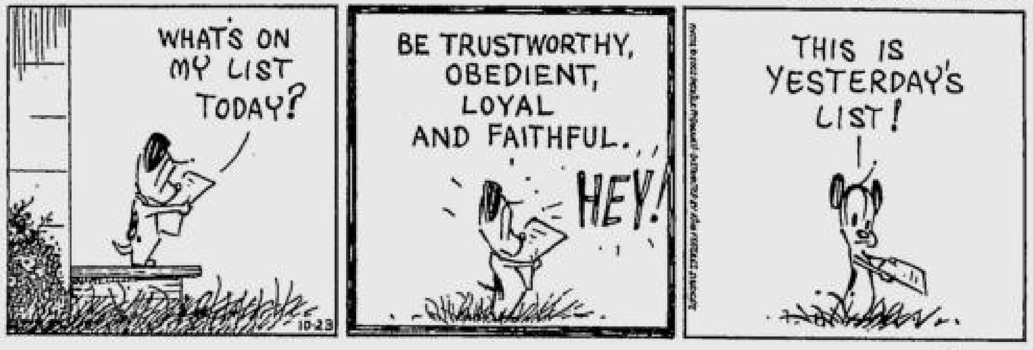
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MISS NOBATOS, ANO PO BA ANG DAPAT NAMING HILINGIN SA DIYOS?
MGA BATA PA KAYO. MAIINTINDIHAN KO KUNG ANG IPAGDASAL N'YO AY ANG MAGKAROON KAYO NG BAGONG SCOOTER O BAGONG COMPUTER ...
AKO... SA EDAD KONG ITO AY WALA NA AKONG IBANG IPINAGDARASAL KUNDI ANG KAPAKANAN NG AKING AMA AT INA.
DIYOS KO, SANA PO'Y BIGYAN N'YO NA NG MANUGANG ANG AKING MGA MAGULANG...
PMJR1002

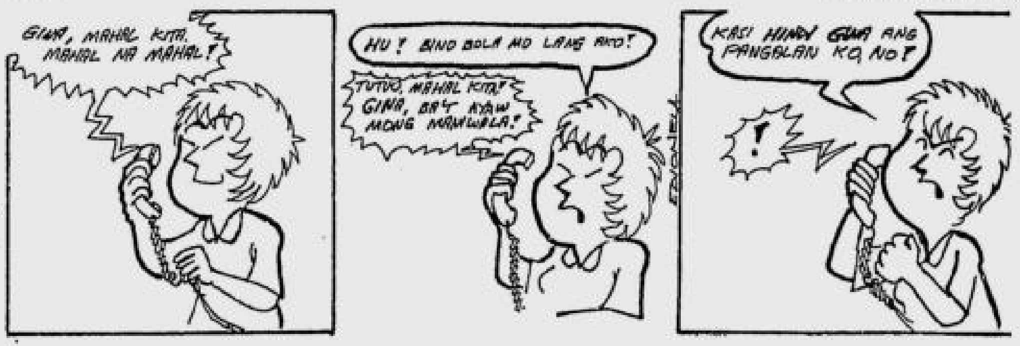
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S ON MY LIST TODAY?
BE TRUSTWORTHY, OBEDIENT, LOYAL AND FAITHFUL..
HEY!
THIS IS YESTERDAY'S LIST!
10-23

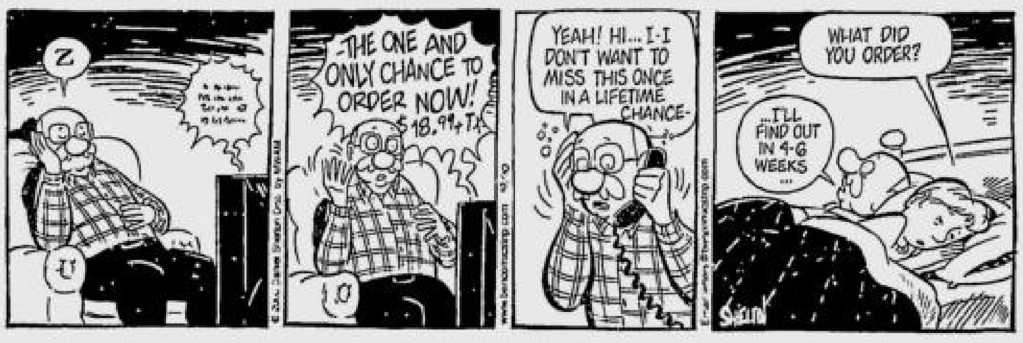
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


GINA, MAHAL KITA. MAHAL NA MAHAL!
HU! BINO BOLA MO LANG AKO!
TUTUO, MAHAL KITA! GINA, BA'T AYAW MONG MANIWALA?
KASI HINDI GINA ANG PANGALAN KO, NO!
DIONELA

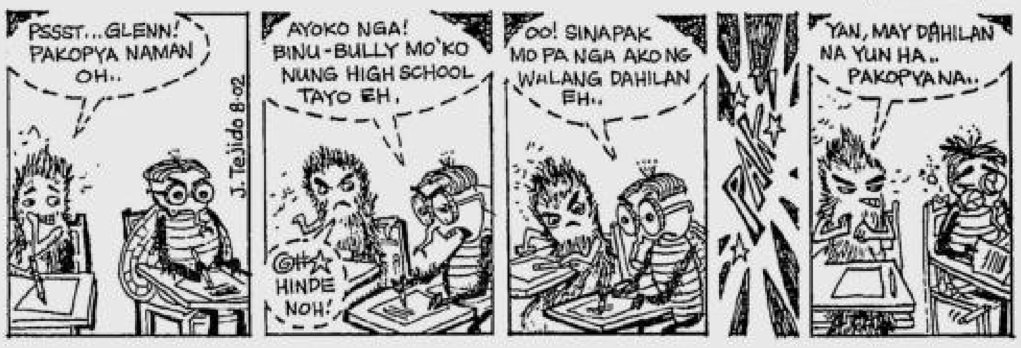
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


Z
-THE ONE AND ONLY CHANCE TO ORDER NOW! $18.99+TAX
YEAH! HI... I-I DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME CHANCE-
WHAT DID YOU ORDER?
...I'LL FIND OUT IN 4-6 WEEKS ...

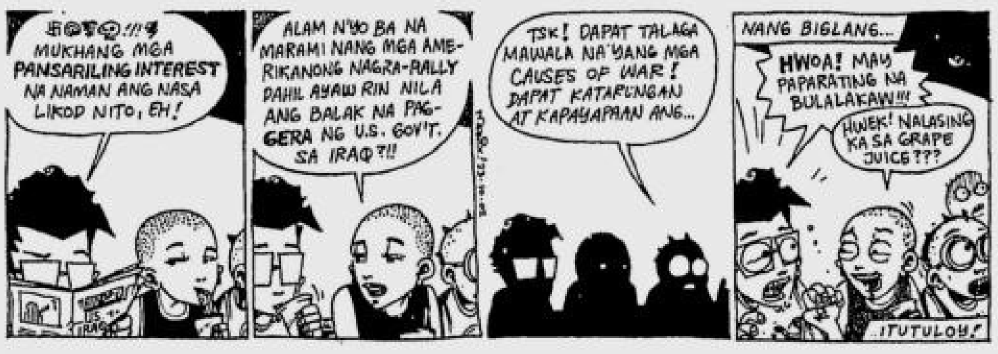
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PSSST... GLENN! PAKOPYA NAMAN OH..
J. Tejido 8-02
AYOKO NGA! BINU-BULLY MO'KO NUNG HIGH SCHOOL TAYO EH.
HINDE NOH!
OO! SINAPAK MO PA NGA AKO NG WALANG DAHILAN EH..
YAN, MAY DAHILAN NA YUN HA.. PAKOPYA NA..

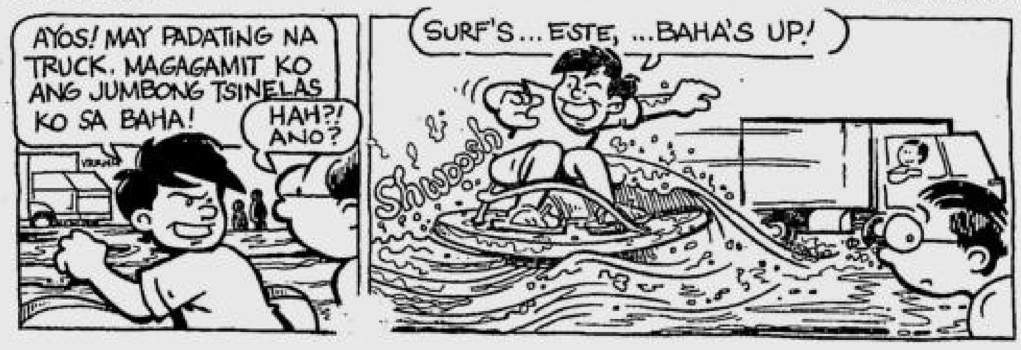
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


MUKHANG MGA PANSARILING INTEREST NA NAMAN ANG NASA LIKOD NITO, EH!
ALAM N'YO BA NA MARAMI NANG MGA AMERIKANONG NAGRA-RALLY DAHIL AYAW RIN NILA ANG BALAK NA PAGGERA NG U.S. GOV'T. SA IRAQ?!!
TSK! DAPAT TALAGA MAWALA NA'YANG MGA CAUSES OF WAR! DAPAT KATARUNGAN AT KAPAYAPAAN ANG...
NANG BIGLANG...
HWOA! MAY PAPARATING NA BULALAKAW!!!
HWEK! NALASING KA SA GRAPE JUICE???
..ITUTULOY!

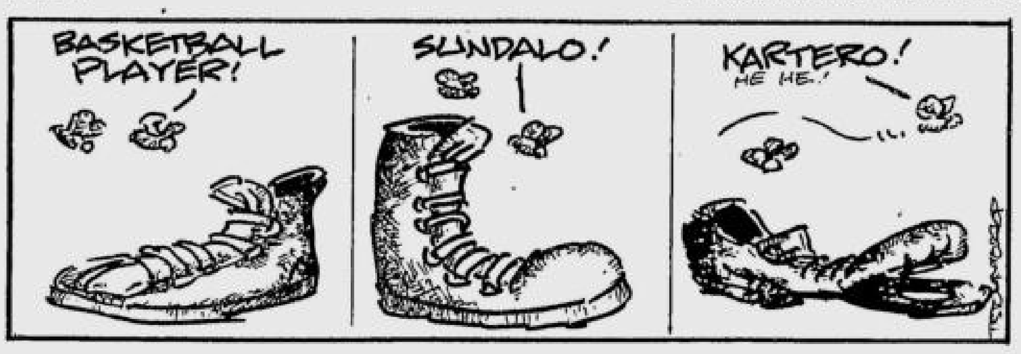
GENG"S GAMES

BY AMIEL RUFO


AYOS! MAY PADATING NA TRUCK. MAGAGAMIT KO ANG JUMBONG TSINELAS KO SA BAHA!
HAH?! ANO?
SURF'S... ESTE, ...BAHA'S UP!
Shwoosh

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BASKETBALL PLAYER!
SUNDALO!
KARTERO!
HE HE!

How 'Stupid!' of me

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

WHEN Pam asked us to write "5 things we will never do," I should have written, "I'll never watch Radiohead." Because it became my assignment to watch "Salbakuta LIVE." Oh, man.

Don't get me wrong. I'm no elitist and I have nothing against OPM music. In fact, I'm a big fan of a handful of local artists. But I'm not a fan of rap or hip-hop, and I just couldn't stand this group's song that ruled Vid-ok (now Myx) and the airwaves during the first quarter of the year (they even made a movie capitalizing on their hit, "S2pid Love"). I already have my Weird Al Yankovich CDs but, for the record, their hit song was—"Stupid!" (Please explain: *"Para kang* sphinx, *ugali mo'y napaka*-stinks.")

I remember yelling at my friends Gretchen and Rayfab when they sang lines from the song. I also remember the expression, *"Makinig ka na nga ng* Salbakuta!" My classmates and I used that expression a lot when someone had a dumb moment. Now I was about to live it.

So was I able to watch them live? No. It was hard looking for their gigs. Their website wasn't working. I asked a handful of people and some of them thought I was joking or being "KSP." They set a gig at one at the Ayala MRT station, but it would be a week after my deadline. I tried other alternatives—to watch the Sex Bomb Dancers or L.A. Lopez (these voices I couldn't stand, too)—but still nothing. Finally I was able to text one of their contacts, Rommel, and he replied that the group would have a show in "Eat Bulaga." But I couldn't do it.

So I bought their album, and since everybody knows I'm an anti-piracy advocate, I bought the original copy. I sneaked into Tower Records 30 minutes before closing time and bought Salbakuta's "Ayoko ng Ganitong Life..." album. I remember the facial expression of the cashier girl when I handed her the CD; it was as if the album were a loaded gun. Thank God, it was only P160 (but still, that's a lot of McDo chicken, MRT tickets and a magazine!). I couldn't believe I bought something I hate. It was the first time I walked out of a record store without opening my purchases.

When my sister saw the CD, she rolled her eyes and said, "Ewww...ugh!" I brought it to school and my friend thought it was Kris Kringle time with a *baduy* theme. I listened to half of it and apologized to my discman like a mentally ill person. A lot of people thought I was trying hard to be funny again.

I tried to be really, really open-minded about it, but no matter how many times it rotated in my players, I still didn't like the album. I'm sorry, but I had never felt like a loser in my life until that time, not even the times I flunked tests and watched "MTV Jackass" reruns twice a day.

SALBAKUTA
Ayoko ng ganitong life...

Dared to listen to Salbakuta, she nearly went berserk

But I can't condemn this group forever. At least, they made their fans happy, made a lot of money and, maybe, fulfilled their dreams.

To Salbakuta fans, I salute you! And to Salbakuta, thanks for giving a good price for your record.

E-mail the author at tam_margera@hotmail.com

AIG DOLCE VITA CARD: FUNCTION, FLEXIBILITY, FLAIR

The woman of today is a dynamic, multi-faceted individual possessing a remarkable ability to strike a balance between the various roles she plays in her life. Driven career person, devoted wife, loving mother, beloved daughter, and cherished friend are just some of the images that come to mind when we speak of her.

Breaking away from the stereotypes of the past, she has emerged as a wonderfully new person who has discovered the full range of her potentials. She has shown aplomb in the face of great stress and courage in times of crises. She is blessed with a rare intelligence and an innate understanding of human nature. Many times she has shown strength of character and her capacity to lead.

The woman of today is a woman empowered

However, with all the demands that society, her family, and she has set upon herself, a woman needs a reliable partner that can keep pace with her busy lifestyle and can make things simplified. She requires a tool that will allow her to function effectively as an individual with a multi-dimensional role while keeping her own needs in mind. The Dolce Vita Card is developed and created to help her cope with these demands and at the same time, realize a life of elegance and flair.

The Dolce Vita Card is the newest offering from the AIG Credit Card Company Phils., Inc. (ACCCPI), one of the country's top credit card providers. This exceptional new product is specially designed for women who value flexibility in responding to her various roles and see each moment as an opportunity to further develop themselves.

The Dolce Vita Card gives a woman a sense of self-empowerment as it provides her with the financial independence and means to fulfill her own and her family's needs. It is the key to an exciting range of shopping, dining, beauty and leisure perks to help her achieve a well-balanced lifestyle. It is her motivation for self-enhancement as it offers her access to personality development workshops and seminars.

Power in the palm of your hand

The Dolce Vita makes life easier for a woman by helping her manage the household budget. With the card's Quick Bills feature, the Dolce Vita automatically pays for her household bills, leaving her more time for work and family. The Value Grocer feature, meanwhile, provides her with big discounts aside from free rewards when buying from groceries.

The Dolce Vita Card also puts a premium on women's health. It offers expanded health benefits unequalled by other credit cards. Aside from providing unlimited women-specific medical consultations, the Dolce Vita covers part of the cardholder's maternity expenses including hospital and delivery charges, up to PhP5,000 a month. The card also offers free lab tests such as ultrasound, pap smear, urinalysis and blood sugar count. After giving birth, the cardholder's baby is entitled to two free visits to the pediatrician. Special fitness programs, meanwhile, allow her to exercise in top gyms at discounted packages. To refresh her skin, she can see a dermatologist free of charge on the first visit.

Like women, AIG also cares about the more important things in life. That is why the Dolce Vita has been developed to offer a unique list of choices specifically suited for a woman and her loved ones. For herself, she can avail of free spa treatments, personal care services and personality enhancement classes. For her man, she can buy gifts at special prices. For her kids, she can count on great deals in toys, hobbies, and children's apparel. For her entire family, she can avail of special installment mark downs in appliances, furniture, and privileges for hotels, resorts and restaurants.

Aside from offering competitive rates, flexible installment plans, and hassle-free transactions, the Dolce Vita Card is backed by MasterCard, a widely accepted credit card provider recognized worldwide. The Dolce Vita Card has the same kind of financial stability, which is the trademark of all AIG Credit Cards.

Living la Dolce Vita

A woman takes care of a lot of people while the Dolce Vita takes care of her.

More often than not, a woman's busy schedule makes her forget that she must look after her own needs and take time to enjoy the best things life has to offer. The Dolce Vita shows her how.

Regular use of the Dolce Vita Card automatically entitles cardholders to an enviable variety of perks and benefits ranging from exclusive discounts, free gifts and personal care services at boutiques, recreation centers, home and appliance centers, spas, beauty bars, restaurants and hotels.

Cardholders can avail of free personal care services such as free massage sessions, foot spa, pedicures, manicures and a plethora of other services from classy establishments such as the Orient Day Spa, Nail Spa, and HeadZone. Aside from these, discounts for Dolce Vita cardholders are available at Casa Armas, Aqua, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Manila Hotel, Regalong Pambahay, The Barnyard Lifestyle, Area Home Store, Shell Canvas, Big & Small, Replay Clothing Store, Claiborne Men, Liz Claiborne, Ink & Stone Bookshop, Lancel, Lita Almario, Elle, Hugo Boss, Enchanted Kingdom, Powerbowl and many more.

The Dolce Vita Card also introduces other lifestyle features such as Ladies Nights and seasonal sales for members only. It also provides personal improvement packages for women like developmental workshops and seminars at John Robert Powers and Fitness First Health Club.

As a special feature, the Dolce Vita supports and promotes the social responsibility of women by giving cardholders an option to donate part of their annual membership fee, starting on the second year, to charitable institutions. For its part, AIG contributes to this cause by organizing and participating in socio-civic event.

The well-rounded life

To complete the Dolce Vita's well-balanced features and services, the card itself carries an ultra-feminine and chic design that perfectly complements a woman's sense of style and character. The card is packaged in a vanity kit, symbolizing the special part it plays in the life of women.

Balanced lifestyle, self-empowerment, and self-enhancement. AIG makes women feel it is possible to have it all so they can do it all and be it all. Indeed, behind every great woman is a Dolce Vita Card.

For inquiries call the AIG Credit Cards Customer Care Hotline at 636-8600.

AIG DOLCE VITA CARD: CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF WOMANHOOD

Manila, October 15, 2002—The AIG Credit Card Company Philippines, Inc. celebrates the joys of womanhood by launching the Dolce Vita Card, a product specifically designed to address the multi-faceted needs of today's woman.

The Dolce Vita Card, which features an ultra-feminine and chic design, empowers women to respond to their various obligations to themselves and to their families while giving them the freedom to enjoy the good things in life.

"The woman of today is a dynamic individual with various roles in life. Driven Career person, devoted homemaker, beloved daughter and cherished friend, are just some of the images that come to mind when we speak of her. Given their complex roles, we help simplify her life," Myla Gonzalez, VP for Marketing said.

"AIG created the Dolce Vita to make women feel free to live their lives according to their terms," Annie Umali, AIG Card Center General Manager added.

The Dolce Vita Card introduces unique features exclusively for women on top of reliable and worry-free service, wide acceptance, flexibility and financial stability, which are trademarks of all AIG Credit Cards. Among the new innovations being introduced in the Dolce Vita are expanded health and personal care benefits, automatic rewards, lifestyle and self-enhancement perks, and social awareness programs.

"The Dolce Vita Card gives a woman the power to have it all to do it all and be it all. Indeed, behind every great woman is a Dolce Vita Card," Myla Gonzalez said.

Unlike other credit cards that provide limited health and medical care, the Dolce Vita offers women services that contribute to her total well being as well as her children, if she has any. Dolce Vita cardholders are entitled to free maternity reimbursement, pediatric consultations, unlimited women-specific consultations, dermatological consultations, unlimited administration of vaccines for children, ultrasound, laboratory examinations, dental benefits, and others. Understanding that women take care of a lot of people, the Dolce Vita in turn takes care of her. With the Dolce Vita Charms feature, regular use of the credit card automatically entitles cardholders to an enviable variety of perks and benefits ranging from exclusive discounts, free gifts and personal care services at boutiques, recreation centers, home and appliance centers, spas, beauty bars, restaurants and hotels.

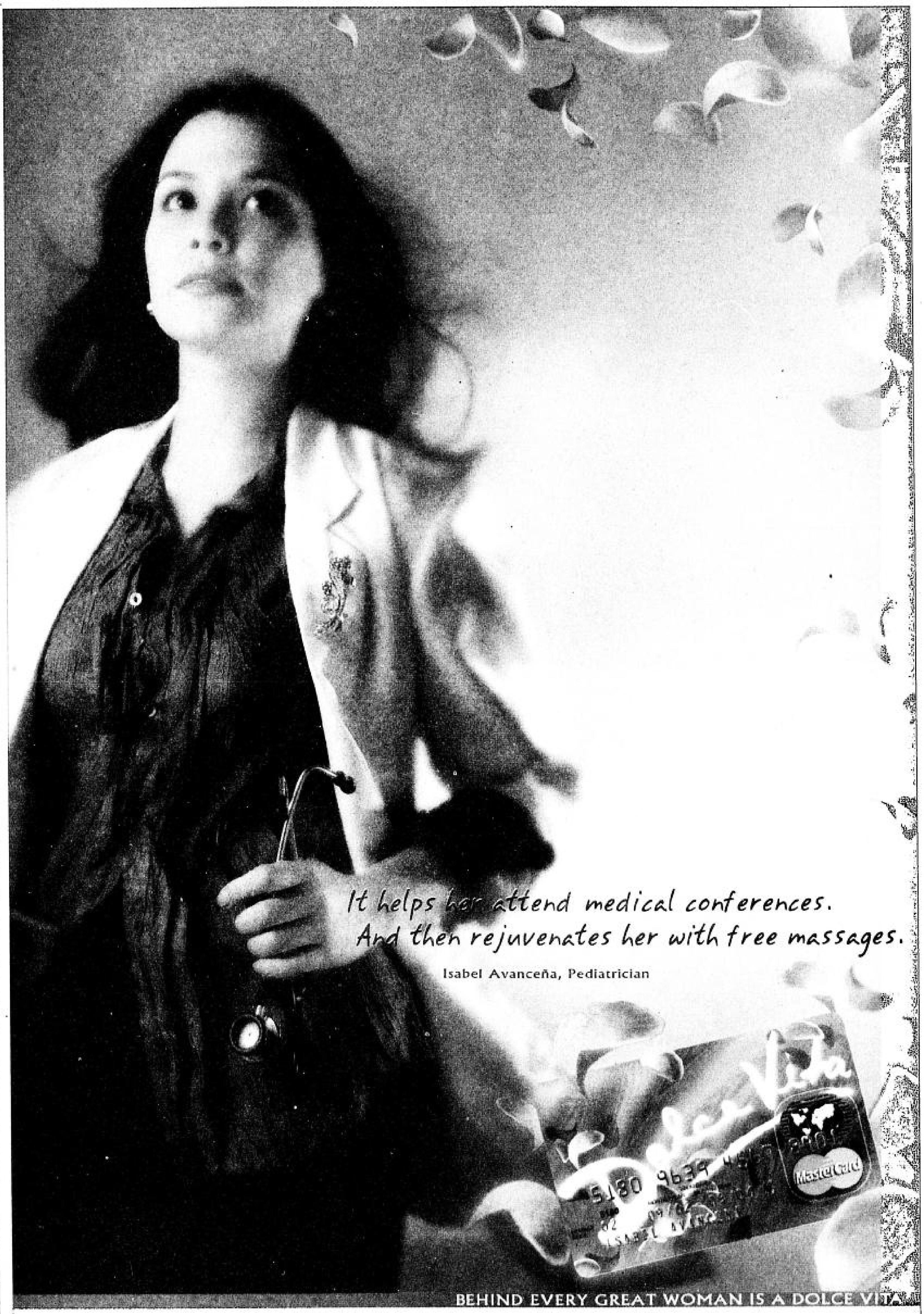
Dolce Vita Cardholders can avail of free personal care services such as free massage and foot spa sessions from the Orient Day Spa. They can also get exclusive discounts while enjoying scrumptious pleasures at Casa Armas, experiencing the hospitality of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel;

shopping for home décor at the Regalong Pambahay, or splurging at their favorite fashion haunts such as Replay Clothing Store, Liz Claiborne, Elle, Hugo Boss, and much, much more.

Meanwhile, to further develop women's potentials, the Dolce Vita gives cardholders access to female-oriented workshops (e.g. cooking, home décor, make-up techniques, etc.) and career seminars on selling and computer skills, business, financial management and investments. The Dolce Vita Card also offers special lifestyle privileges for female members such as Ladies Nights and seasonal sales.

As a special feature, AIG will also tie-up with cause-oriented groups to promote the social responsibility of women. AIG Credit Cards, which is known for its innovative products and customer-oriented service has a wide range of exclusive features covering both financial flexibility and family protection. It is the consumer finance arm of the American International Group (AIG) and the Philam Group of Companies, which are two of the top insurance and financial institutions in the U.S. and the Philippines, respectively. For inquiries, call the AIG Credit Cards Customer Care Hotline at 636-8600.

ADVT


It helps her attend medical conferences.
And then rejuvenates her with free massages.
Isabel Avanceña, Pediatrician
Dolce Vita
MasterCard
BEHIND EVERY GREAT WOMAN IS A DOLCE VITA

These days, Isabel finds more reasons to use her Dolce Vita, the newest offering from AIG Credit Cards. She charges her registration and other conference expenses so she can avail of automatic rewards. There's a list of choices for herself and for her loved ones. For herself, she can find free spa treatments, personal care services and personality enhancement classes. For her man, she buys gifts at special prices. For her kids, she can count on great deals in toys, hobbies and children's apparel. For her entire family, she takes advantage of installment mark downs in appliances, furniture and privileges for hotels, resorts and restaurants.

Her Dolce Vita is the best therapy for Isabel's busy life.

The newest offering from:
AIG Credit Cards

Call now at 636-8600
Get a Dolce Vita Card FREE for the first year
and indulge in free massage worth P800 at Orient Day Spa.

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a diversified and quality portfolio of insurance products and financial services:
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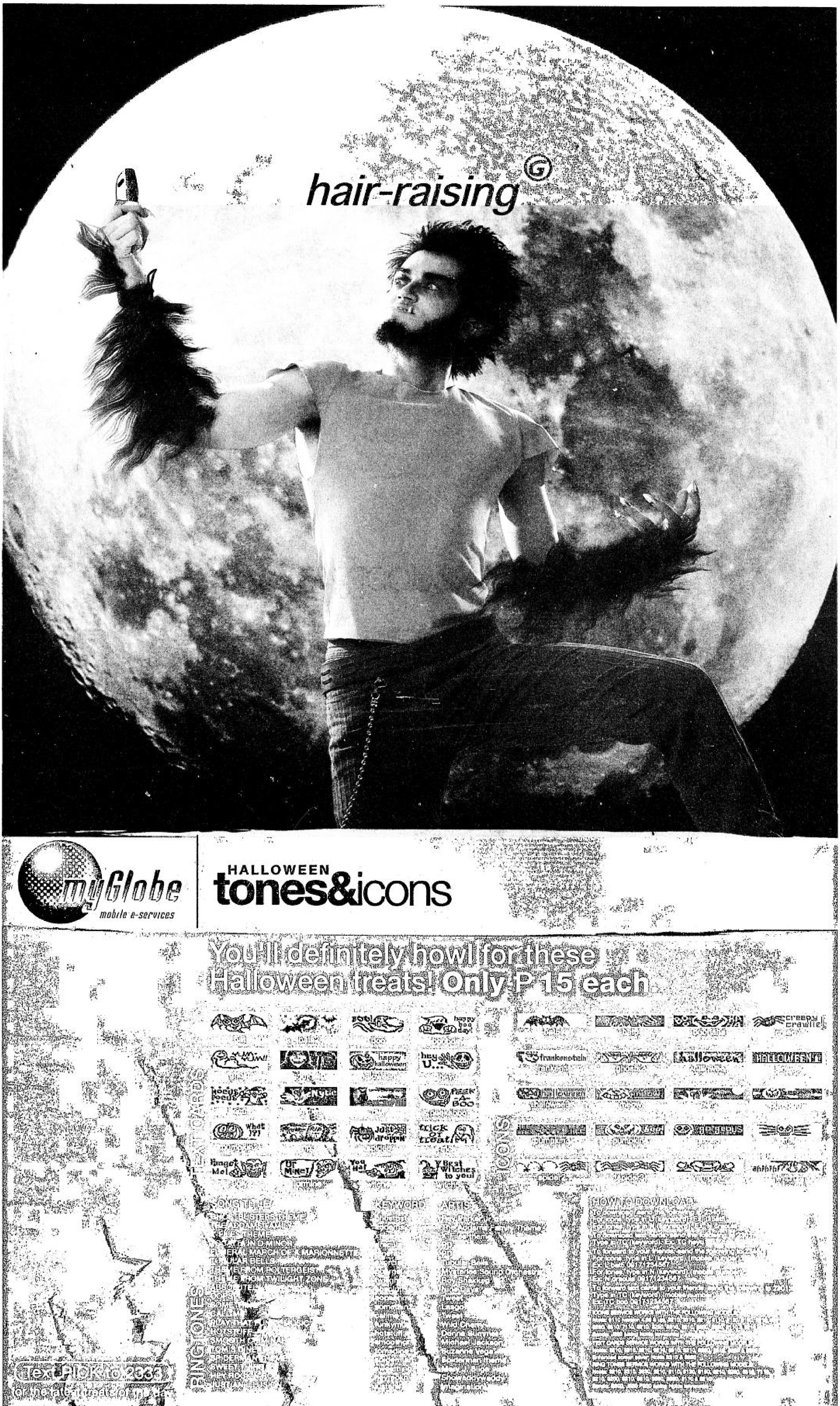

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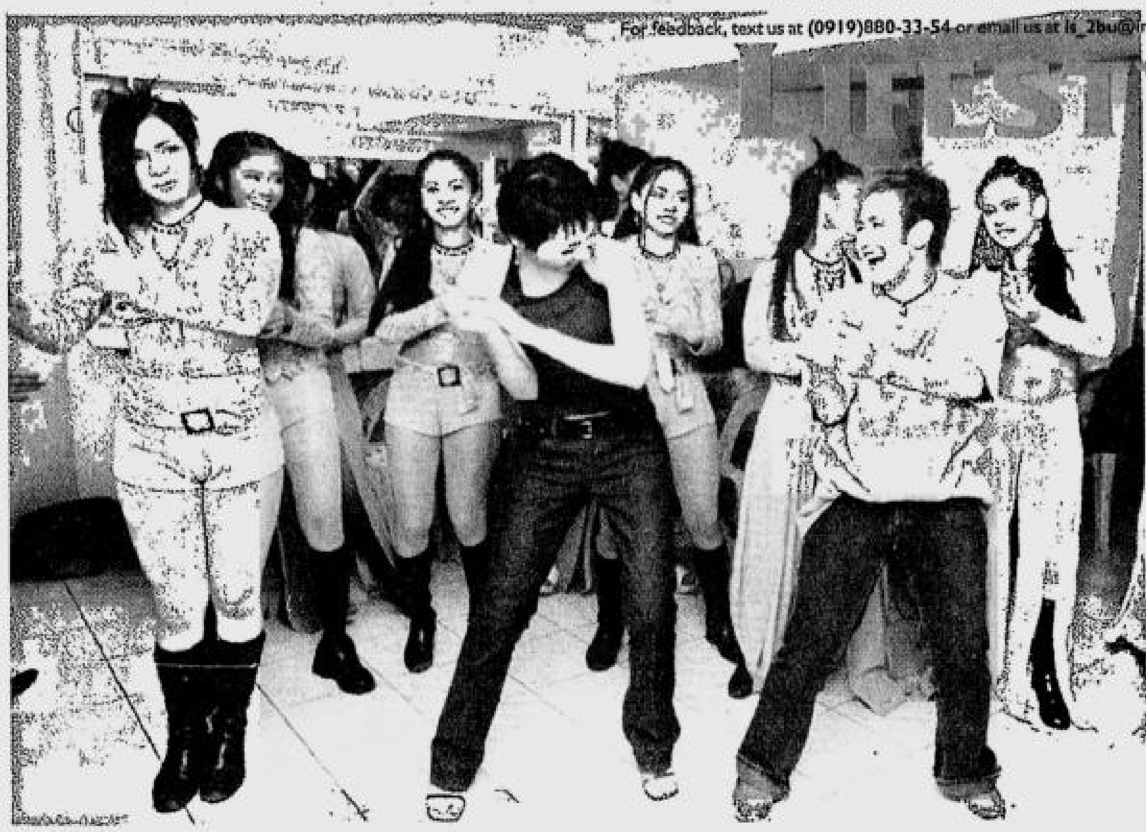

A bomb just as fatal to RP's future as the real thing?

STORY ON PAGE D2

Young girls admiring and wanting to become the Sex Bomb Dancers do not say much about the future of the country

TRICK OR TREAT ON ICE!

COME IN YOUR HALLOWEEN ATTIRE OR A GROUP OF THREE & GET FREE SOUVENIR PHOTO TREAT ON ICE!

- Cut and present this ad for a FREE HALOWEEN PARTY HAT w/any skating availment
- Not valid with any other promo.

PROMO RUNS OCTOBER 15 TO NOVEMBER 03, 2002

islandphoto Center, Inc.

It's cool and fun on Ice!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3588 Series of 2002

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UP TO 60% OFF

ON MENSWEAR, LADIESWEAR AND ACCESSORIES

STARTS TODAY OCTOBER 23, 2002

At the BURBERRY Shop
Level 3 Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City
Tel.: 638-6826

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-706 Series of 2002.

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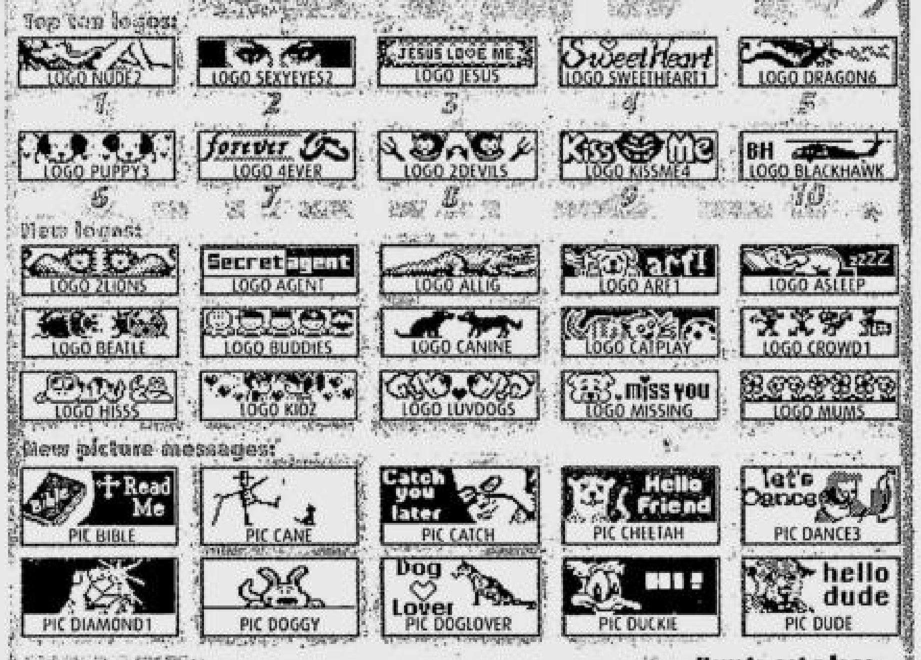
These downloads are out of this world.

Explore our stellar SMART zed logos, ring tones and picture messages from October 9 to 14.

SMART Simply Amazing!


Top ten logos:
LOGO NUDE2 1
LOGO SEXYEYES2 2
LOGO JESUS 3
LOGO SWEETHEART1 4
LOGO DRAGON6 5
LOGO PUPPY3 6
LOGO 4EVER 7
LOGO 2DEVILS 8
LOGO KISSME4 9
LOGO BLACKHAWK 10
New logos:
LOGO 2LIONS
LOGO AGENT
LOGO ALLIG
LOGO ARF1
LOGO ASLEEP
LOGO BEATLE
LOGO BUDDIES
LOGO CANINE
LOGO CATPLAY
LOGO CROWD1
LOGO HISSS
LOGO KIDZ
LOGO LUVDOGS
LOGO MISSING
LOGO MUMS
New picture messages:
PIC BIBLE
PIC CANE
PIC CATCH
PIC CHEETAH
PIC DANCE3
PIC DIAMOND1
PIC DOGGY
PIC DOGLOVER
PIC DUCKIE
PIC DUDE

New ring tones:

Shoulda Woulda Coulda	Beverly Knight	TONE SHOUCDA
Oye Como Va	Santana	TONE OYECOMOVA
Survivor		TONE SURVIVOR
A Thousand Miles	Vanessa Carlton	TONE THOUSAND
Crazy Rap	Afroman	TONE CRAZYRAP
Spiderman	Movie Theme	TONE SPIDERMAN
Don't Let Me Get Me	Pink	TONE GETME
Just Like A Pill	Pink	TONE JUSTLIKE
That's What Friends Are For	Dionne Warwick	TONE THATSWHA

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4 Tell Me	Side A Band	TONE TELLME
5 Kaya Pala	Pops Fernandez	TONE KAYAPALA
6 Tameme	Jolina Magdangal	TONE TAMEME
7 Real Slim Shady	Eminem	TONE SLIMSHADY
8 Dog Barking	Zed	TONE DOGBARK
9 Police Siren	Zed	TONE SIREN
10 Fax Tone	Zed	TONE FAX

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LOGO RECEIVED.
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Ex. LOGO KIDZ, PIC BIBLE or TONE GETME
To send logo, tone or picture message, to another cell phone, type in <keyword> <cell phone number> and send to 288.
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Sinong bespren mo?
Sinong bespren mo?
Sinong bespren mo?
Sinong bespren mo?
FRIENDS
Sinong bespren mo?
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Happy Anniversary!
Happy Anniversary!
Happy Anniversary
Happy Anniversary!
Happy Anniversary!
Happy Anniversary!
Happy Anniversary!

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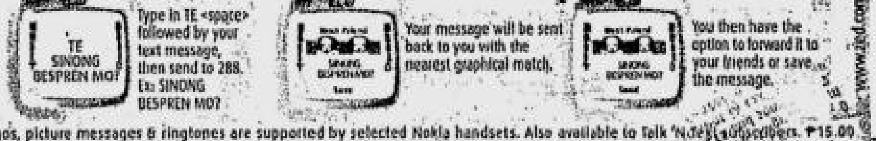
TE SINONG BESPREN MO?
Best Friend
SINONG BESPREN MO?
Best Friend
SINONG BESPREN MO?
Type in TE <space> followed by your text message, then send to 288. Ex: SINONG BESPREN MO?
Your message will be sent back to you with the nearest graphical match.
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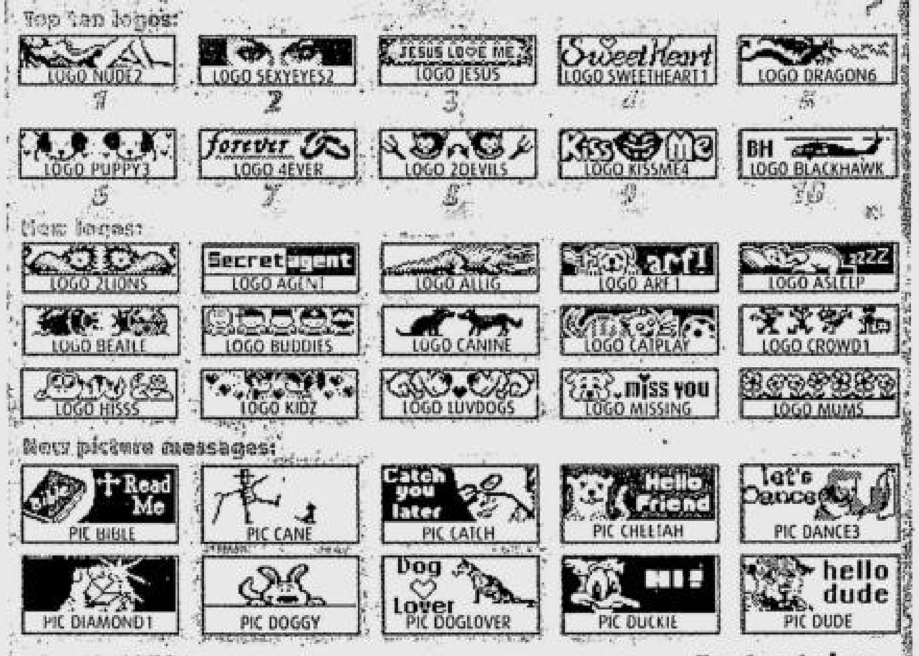
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LOGO SEXYEYES2
2
JESUS LOVE ME
LOGO JESUS
3
SweetHeart
LOGO SWEETHEART1
4
LOGO DRAGON6
5
LOGO PUPPY3
6
forever
LOGO 4EVER
7
LOGO 2DEVILS
8
Kiss me
LOGO KISSME4
9
BH
LOGO BLACKHAWK
10
New logos:
LOGO 2LIONS
Secret agent
LOGO AGENT
LOGO ALLIG
arf!
LOGO ARF1
zzZ
LOGO ASLEEP
LOGO BEATLE
LOGO BUDDIES
LOGO CANINE
LOGO CATPLAY
LOGO CROWD1
LOGO HISSS
LOGO KIDZ
LOGO LUVDOGS
miss you
LOGO MISSING
LOGO MUMS
New picture messages:
Read Me
PIC BIBLE
PIC CANE
Catch you later
PIC CATCH
Hello Friend
PIC CHEETAH
Let's Dance
PIC DANCE3
PIC DIAMOND1
PIC DOGGY
Dog Lover
PIC DOGLOVER
HI!
PIC DUCKIE
hello dude
PIC DUDE

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LABAN!

Text by Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Roger Carpio

I WAS bombed, or rather sex-bombed, as I chased after the oh-so-popular group of girls. It was no piece of cake. Day after day they were either busy with promotions, shows, tapings, or out-of-town gigs that kept me from performing my mission—to be a Sex Bomb Dancer (SBD) for a day.

But being a staunch advocate of feminism, I promised myself that the resulting article would serve as a wake-up call to the fans of the SBD. I have been disturbed and saddened, watching a 7-year-old girl on the street dancing uninhibitedly—gyrating and thrusting her pelvis in glorious imitation of the SBD, by how openly noontime variety show-absorbed Filipinos have embraced this pop culture, mindless of its effects on children and the rest of the population.

I asked Joy Cancio, the group's hardworking manager and choreographer, what she said when people criticized her wards and accused them of selling sex and skin like the dancers in Quezon Avenue. She quickly replied that, first, the Sex Bomb Dancers were just that—dancers. And they would never be more or less than just singers and dancers, if you catch my drift. The group's choreography, she added, was based on and adapted from whatever's popular in the West.

Indeed, Cancio did not dream up the group's trademark moves. Just check out the videos of the multi-awarded Britney Spears—she's almost as naked and even more seriously sexually provocative, what with the pants and grunts, than the SBD who actually did things that were meant to be light, funny and "wholesome" during certain portions of "Eat Bulaga." My question is: Is it really possible to have good, clean fun while romping around in shorts that are as long as your dear mother's panties?

The SBD turned out to be down-to-earth, friendly and ordinary Filipino women, who believe it or not, have real talents in singing and dancing. If you get to spend time with them even for just 10 minutes or so, you will find out that they are not *malandi* as some people think.

Real talents

Most of the dancers originally came from the Dance Focus group, whose members serve as background dancers in production numbers of celebrity guests of "Eat Bulaga." It may look so easy on television to strut around and move your butt in time with the music, but the reason why it looks effortless is because the SBD dancers are actually good. Members of the SBD with good voices were trained in voice. Some members of the group recruited by Cancio were singers originally and were working on their first album, "Unang Putok." But the viewing public sees them as capable only of dancing while singing "Laban" or "Bawi."

One could not imagine them competing against or performing alongside Regine Velasquez and Lani Misalucha, even with their talent because they are the "Sex Bomb Dancers." But since they are the hottest thing in noontime TV now, competitors are scrambling to organize groups to compete with SBD.

I asked five or six of the 14 girls why they joined the SBD. One or two gigglingly answered, "Wala lang." The others said they were really into dancing and being in the group was the only "break" they could get. They added that it was "*trabaho lang*" and they wanted to help their parents support their families. The girls are

A BOMB/ p.D3

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Catch these exciting cooking demos at selected branches:
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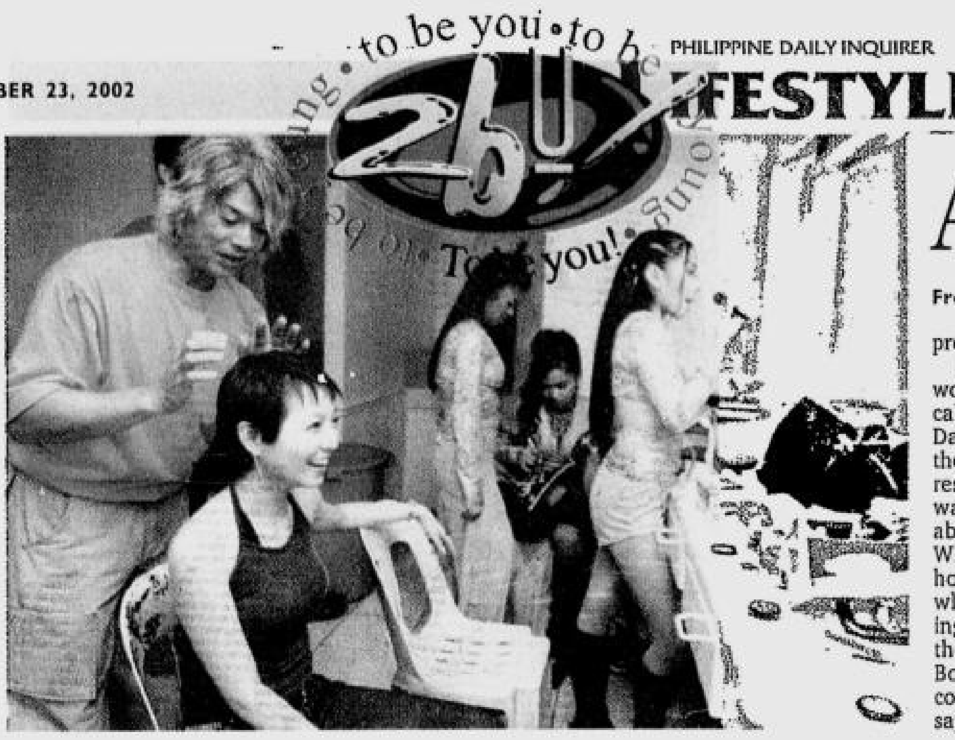
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To be you!

THE TRANSFORMATION. The author (left) gets ready for her stint.

A bomb . . .

From page D2

providers, breadwinners in fact.

Although I am against the exploitation of women by the media, I find it hard to be critical of the real women behind the Sex Bomb Dancer image. To a certain extent, I admire them for their courage to risk criticism and disrespect (they complained of abusive fans who wanted nothing but "*manghipo*") just to be able to help send their siblings to school. When I walked out of their dressing room, a horde of young, eager and star-struck girls who reached only up to my waist was standing outside seeking autographs, photo ops, and the like. The girls not only admired the Sex Bomb Dancers, they actually wanted to become the Sex Bomb Dancers. What does that say about our future as a country?

Don't get me wrong. I have nothing against the Sex Bomb Dancers personally. Nor do I have anything against their fans and supporters. These are hardworking girls who get as tired as women executives of big companies. When I went to the dressing room, one of the dancers, who they all called Ngarag, was sleeping in a corner, obviously exhausted. She had every right to be considering the group's tight schedule. When asked what the group did for R&R, sleeping at home was the immediate answer.

The SBD consists of talented singers and dancers, who could well be developed into performers that the public would look up to. Mainstream media have turned these women into commodities for profit and ratings, whether or not the dancers voluntarily agreed to do it. If the Sex Bomb Dancers are real professionals, they should be treated and promoted as such.

pH care

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Ang drug registration o DR is one big proof na drug o gamot ang feminine wash mo.

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Pero alam mo ba na ang gamot o drug may not be the best type of feminine wash for your external genitalia?

Ang gamot may antiseptic properties. That's why ginagamit ito for the treatment of genital infections. Antiseptics kill all sorts of bacteria–mabuti man o masama. Kaya when used frequently for the external genitalia, it may lead to irritation and dryness.

Kung walang sakit, use new **pH care**. Hindi ito gamot, it does not contain any antiseptic and it has the right pH level of 5 kaya tamang-tama for daily use for the external genitalia.

To keep you clean, fresh and help prevent infection, **pH care** everyday!

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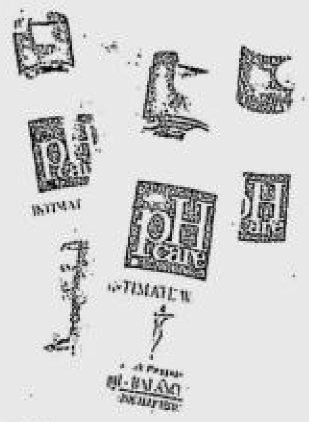
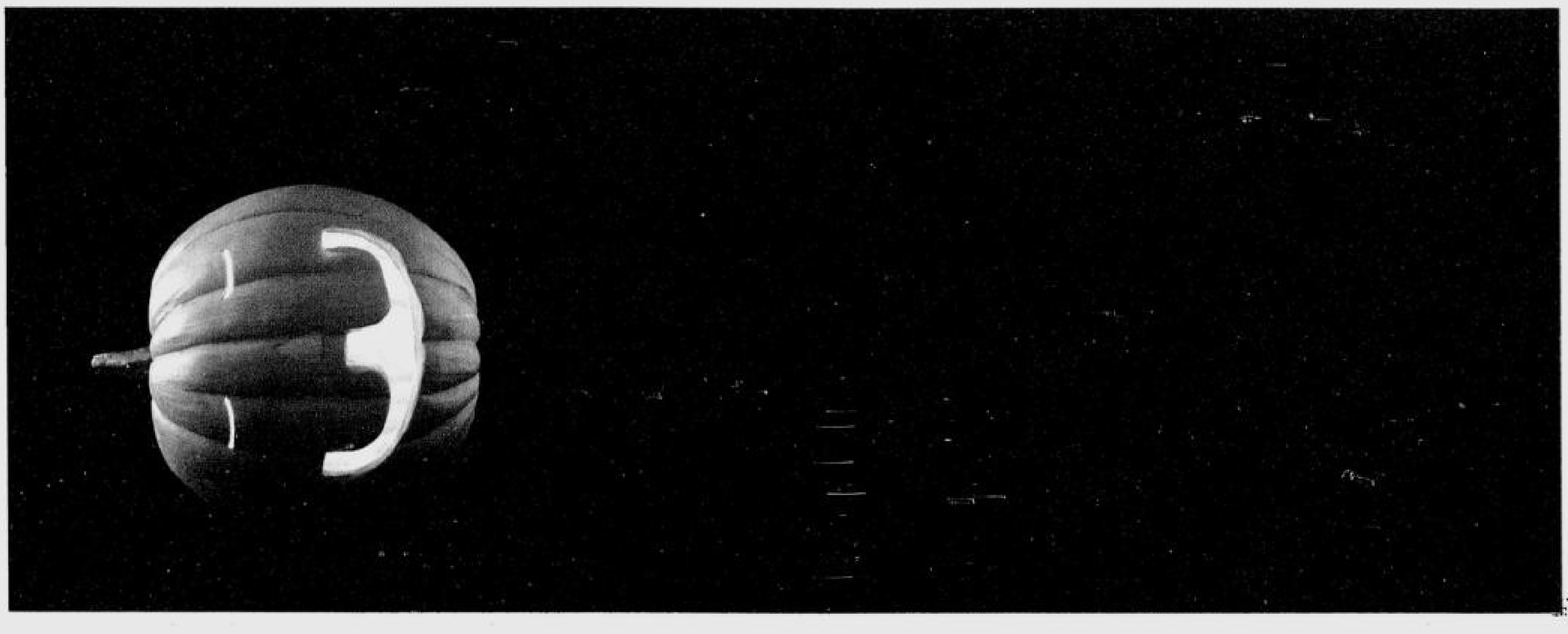


For everyday feminine care.

pH care
INTIMATE WASH



Get a third night free this Halloween. It's all treats and no tricks at Edsa Shangri-La from October 25 to November 3. Stay two nights or book two rooms and you'll get a third one free. Of course, you'll get complimentary buffet breakfast for two (for the first two nights or two rooms) and free meals for kids under six. Not to mention discounts on laundry and spa services. Plus, you'll get 20% off on tickets to our Halloween Fair on October 26, where we've invited Sesame Street's Count, Elmo and Cookie Monster. How's that for a treat?

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I will never PiERCE this WAY again

By Arie A.
2bU! Correspondent

I DID what was against my nature. I had myself pierced.

"You're 20 years old. You're too old to get pressured by your peers," my teenybopper cousin said, shaking her head. I saw images of my fellow 2bU! correspondents pinning me down to have my navel pierced.

I began to do research on piercing. "The first records of navel piercing stretch as far back as the ancient civilizations of Egypt. Only the pharaohs and the royal families were permitted to pierce their navels," a book says. So would piercing actualize my status as a goddess?

There was even a do-it-yourself manual on piercing on the Internet. A fun test determined which piercing would suit a certain personality. The fun test revealed that a nose ring (which I'll never wear) would suit me perfectly.

I was besieged by thoughts. A friend who had her navel pierced said it just felt like a pinch. If I could go through the pain of newly tightened braces or having my arm pricked twice daily by med school interns when I had dengue fever, surely I could go through the pain of a "pinch."

Piercing also implies rebelliousness. It endows one with the "wild thing" aura. But I'm not a rebel.

On the way to the piercing shop, my heart beat fast. My hands became clammy. When I found the shop, I nearly fainted. It was just too overwhelming. The place was dimly lit and tattoo designs (the type you'd find on a heavy metal rocker) were hung all over. The place screamed pseudo-Goth. The personnel who were lounging in the couches and the girl at the desk looked, well, stoned. I made two mental resolutions: (a) I was going to go to a place that was more sanitary, preferably one that looked like a clinic; and (b) I was going to go with a friend.

Later a friend found a piercing place in another mall. It charged more, but it looked cleaner, safer and more professional.

While waiting for the piercer, the fear sunk in. When the piercer walked in, he asked me to sit in a comfy-looking armchair. He held what looked like an injection and he wryly told me it was a sign pen. He needed to mark the portion of my skin where the needle would come in.

After marking the skin, he prepared the materials. I asked him repeatedly if the needle was new and he assured me it was. I looked away. There was a poster of Shakira on the wall. Something in me wished to see a poster of Josh Hartnett instead.

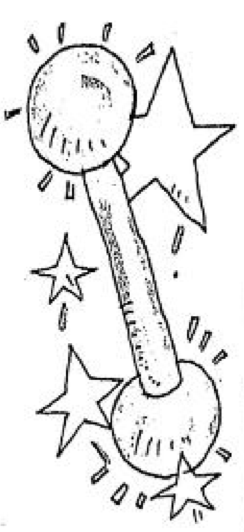
Suddenly, I felt a pinch. The needle pierced my skin. It didn't hurt much, but it still felt weird. The piercer screwed on the top bead of the ring and I heaved a sigh of relief. It was over!

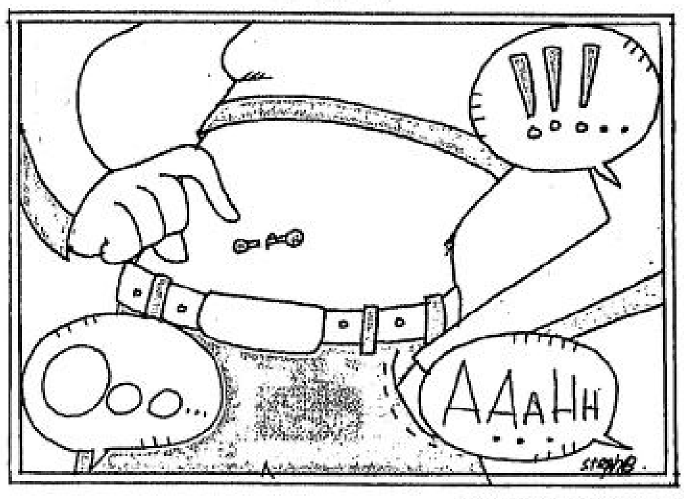
A week later, I couldn't sleep on my stomach. I couldn't wear outfits with waistbands higher than my navel. I must clean the piercing twice a day. I must endure the soreness and the occasional itchiness as the wound healed. The after-care of a piercing could be a hassle, but I didn't regret a thing.

Friends tell me the procedure must have been very painful. I tell them that it felt like a pinch and that the scariest part was imagining the pain. Then they ask me if it was safe. I tell them that it's important to do a lot of research before going through it. Piercing can be prone to infection if you don't go to a professional piercer or don't take care of it afterwards.

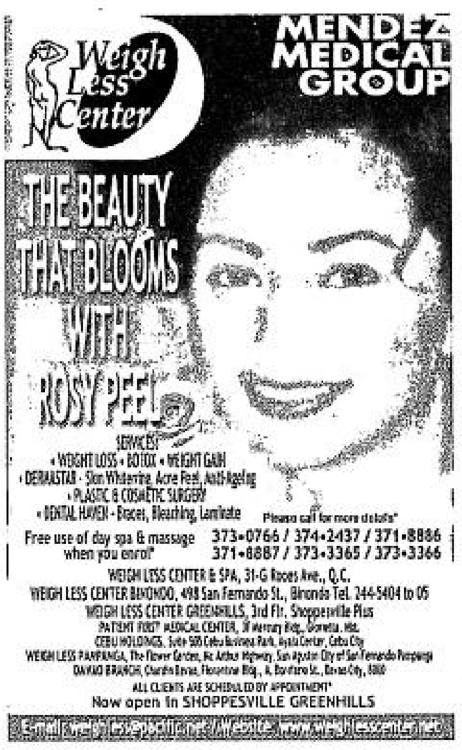
They tell me I'm gutsy. I don't disagree.

Navel gazers can relieve the boredom by having their navels pierced





ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO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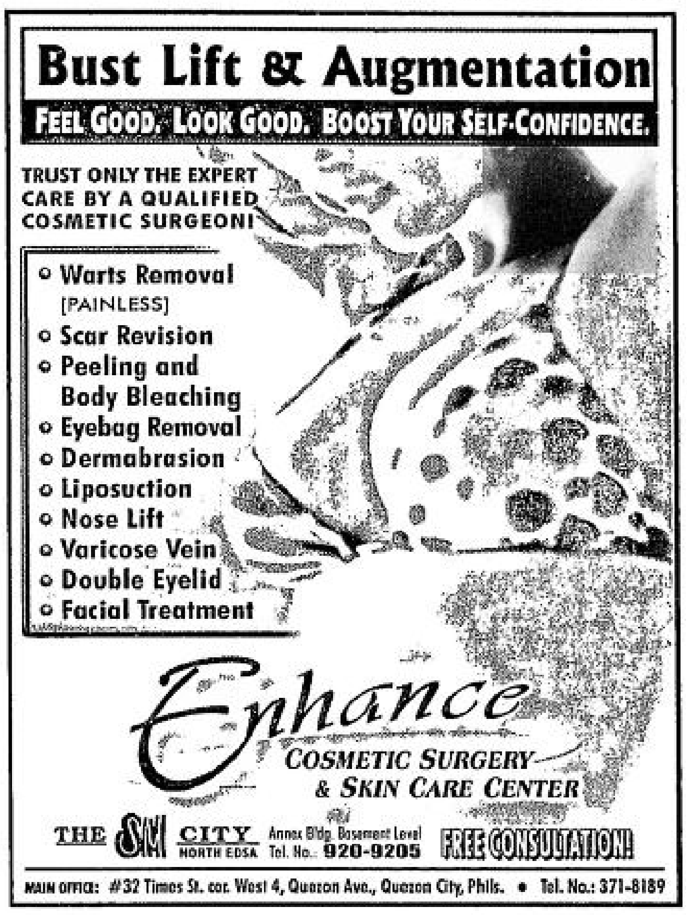
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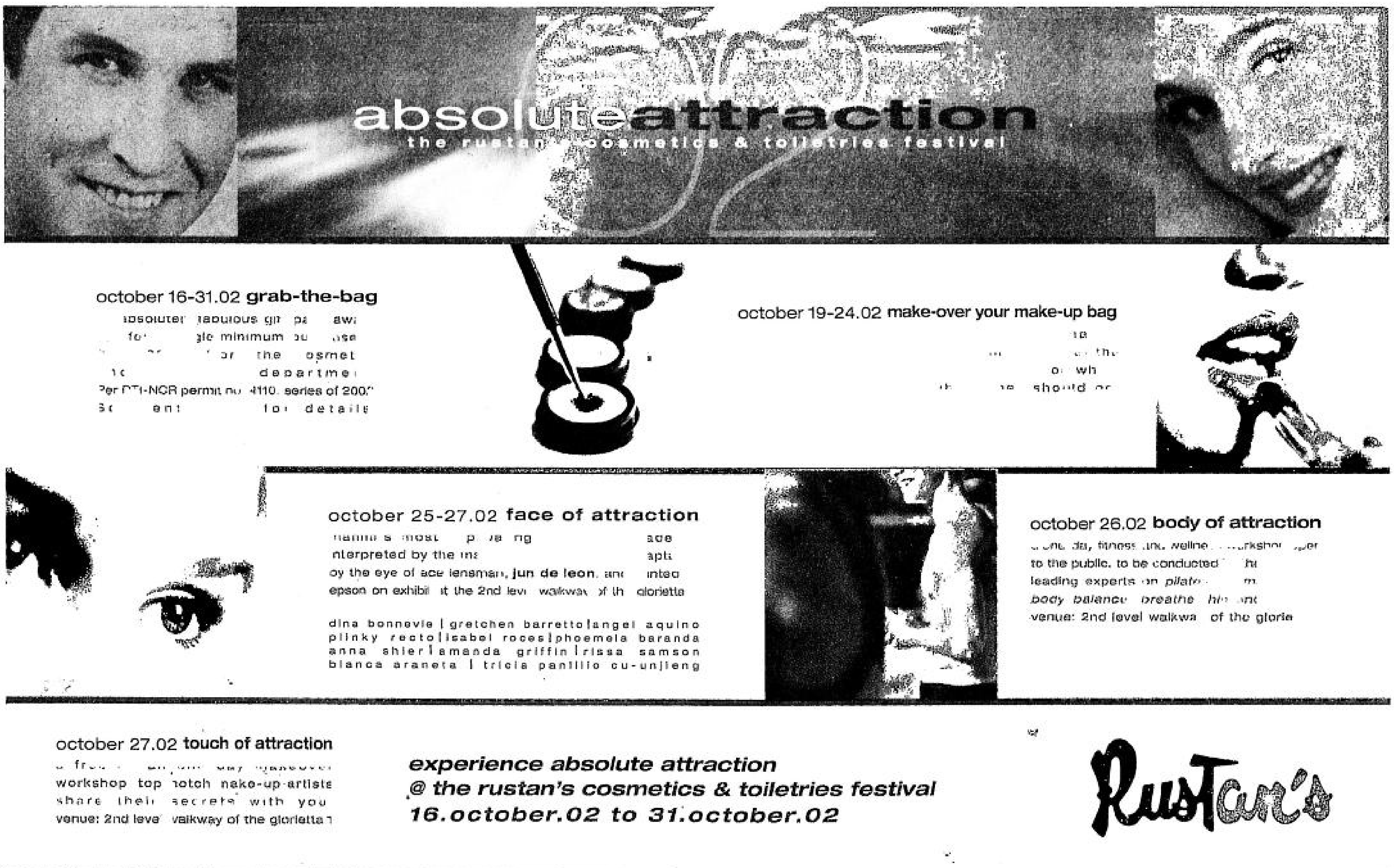
absolute attraction
the rustan's cosmetics & toiletries festival
october 16-31.02 grab-the-bag
absolutely fabulous gift pa[illegible] awa[illegible]
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Per DTI-NCR permit no. 4110, series of 2002
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october 19-24.02 make-over your make-up bag
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october 25-27.02 face of attraction
manila's most [illegible] ace
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dina bonnevie | gretchen barretto | angel aquino
pinky recto | isabel roces | phoemela baranda
anna shier | amanda griffin | rissa samson
bianca araneta | tricia pantilio cu-unjieng
october 26.02 body of attraction
[illegible], fitness and wellness workshop open to the public, to be conducted [illegible] leading experts on pilates [illegible] body balance, breathe [illegible]
venue: 2nd level walkway of the glorie[illegible]
october 27.02 touch of attraction
[illegible] makeover workshop top notch make-up artists share their secrets with you
venue: 2nd level walkway of the glorietta [illegible]
experience absolute attraction
@ the rustan's cosmetics & toiletries festival
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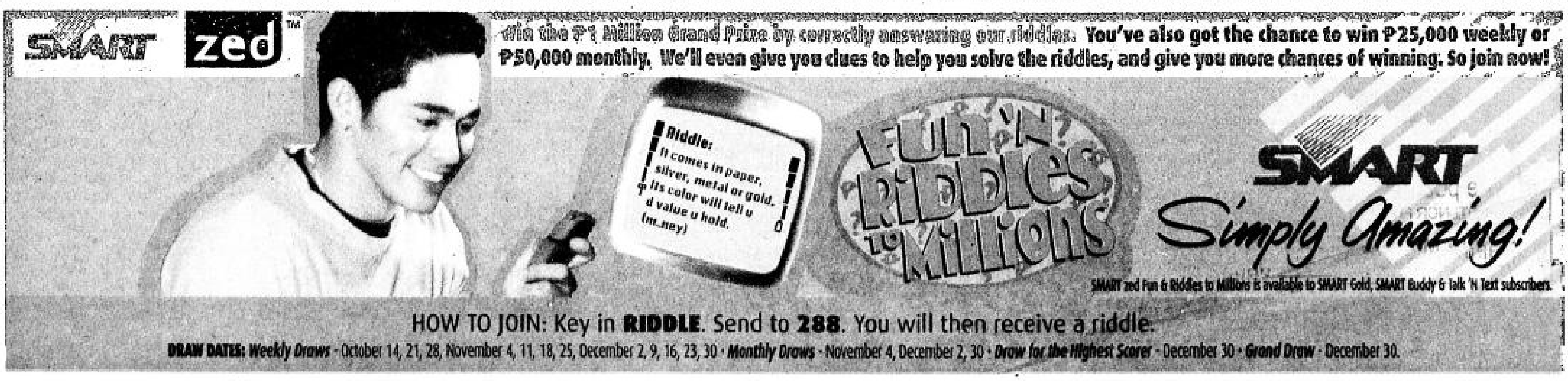
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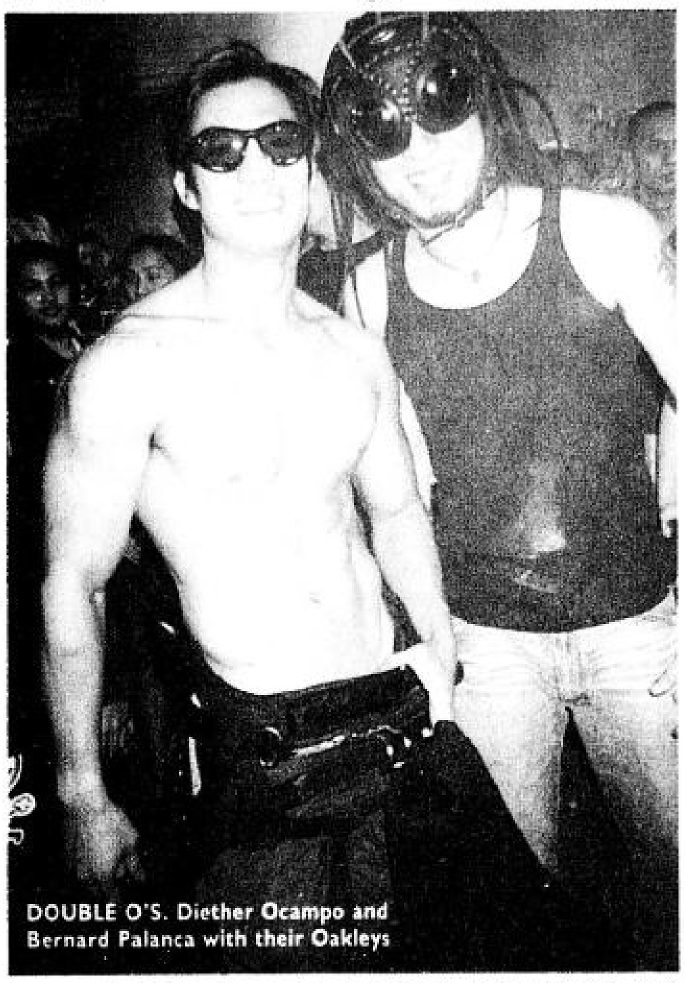


DOUBLE O'S. Diether Ocampo and Bernard Palanca with their Oakleys

GAME MASTERS. Oakley-eyed sports icons Rovilson Fernandez and Carlo Ledesma

MAGNUM OPUS. Jose Mari Ugarte and Rita Trillo

TWO TINA'S AND A KAT. Tina Vasquez-Prada, Tina Pamintuan and Kat Abad

Bombs away to *bombings!* Fight back and party!

Tim Yap

AMID panicky textings warning of terrorism in metropolitan malls this past week, I braved all threats and hopped from malls to hot spots and back. "Life shouldn't stop," my partyphile pal told me, "for if it did, then the terrorists would have succeeded." Sometimes, it is better to nurse a hangover than regret not having lived life at all.

The past weeks have sent me to Hawaii to San Francisco and then back to Manila, excited over text messages of new things happening. Everybody who knows the ins and outs of urban nightlife would really get elated to find that despite predictions of gloom and doom—Halloween is just around the corner (have you thought of your costumes?)—people are moving on.

City shakers still find it worth the time and effort to further the scene. Proof of this is the slew of happenings, launches and events around the city, not to mention the *parol* lighting up and the Christmas carols playing this early in the malls.

My trek to the mall proved to be surreal—there was a long line of people getting in, what with the strict security measures being implemented for people to feel safer. The trunks of cars were inspected. I don't know, but it felt like an episode of "The Twilight Zone" to me.

Nevertheless, my mall hops, from Megamall to Shangri-La to Rockwell to Greenbelt, were all fine—safe and with pretty good sounds—less people, yes (with the exception of Megamall), but no bombings.

At Shangri-La, I went straight to Struan and Tang's, that cozy watering hole at the third level for the belated surprise (thrown by gal pal **Leica Carpo,** of course) of well-loved renaissance man **Juan Miguel Ongsiako**, responsible for brands like Paul Smith, Ligne Roset and other hip stuff. His latest acquisition is, you guessed it right—Struan and Tang's, which the Masigan family sold to him when they migrated to Canada. Hot chef Joey Carpo and Juan Miguel planned the new menu, so expect the unexpected.

Hot, hotter, hottest

Then I went to "it" couple **Amanda Griffin** and **Paolo Araneta's** joint birthday bash at the penthouse of One Lafayette, where Ponti-philes and the rest of their friends chilled. Even the heavy rain could not dampen the spirits of the revelers, all members of the city's young and beautiful set, as they danced to R&B music ("It's getting hot in here, so take off all your clothes...") and chit-chatted the night away.

Speaking of R&B, there's just no stopping this hip and happening dance music from spreading all over the city. Wasabi's Friday nights are at their all-time high, and Pravda's Wednesday R&B sessions are as hot as evah. Credit goes to DJ **Steve Mills**, harbinger of the R&B gospel and the bar owners. A few Wednesdays ago, I hopped to an Ateneo victory party there (one of the many around town) to find Blue Eagles happily getting down and getting jiggy with it. Pravda's **Paolo Trillo** is Atenean, and so is Swatch babe Sarah Meier, and I saw both of them separately, along with a whole slew of hot, young partyphiles having a great R&B night that evening.

From there, my next stop was the high, high-tech launch of Oakley's latest collection. The 40th floor of RCBC Plaza was transformed into a mad scientist's den where celebs from the sports world and glitz biz paraded in their fierce looking O's. **Diether Ocampo**, **BJ Palanca**, **Carlo Ledesma**, **Trisha Chiongbian**, **Akiko Thompson**, **Rovilson Fernandez**, **Jake Roxas**, to name a few—sashayed, glided, hopped onto a motorcycle, poled in and out of the Oakley stage, to the delight of the A-listers who made the head count that electric and eclectic night.

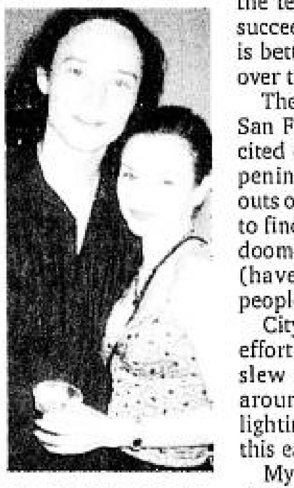
All that party hopping made me tired, so my last stop was a spa session with **Joyce Jimenez**. I dashed to Dish where she launched Sari-Sari's "Private Joyce"—her own line of bath and body essentials. A foot scrub, a massage and aroma therapy sessions after, I checked out the products (spritzer, lotions and potions) with stylish and sexy **Trish Cu-Unjieng**, and we both agreed, they do capture the essence of Joyce, who is fun and full of life! From Pampanga to New York, Sari Sari has continued in its commitment to make waves for hip, young Pinoys. So what's next on the Joyce/Sari-Sari empire? "Joyce Viagra? Joyce condoms?" I overheard someone joke. Hmmm, not a bad idea.

POWER BOYS. Marc Nelson, Juan Elizalde and Paolo Araneta

D TO C. D'Sound with Amanda Carpo at the Shangri-La Plaza

THE JOYS OF JOYCE. Joyce Jimenez at the launch of her bath and body line at Dish

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

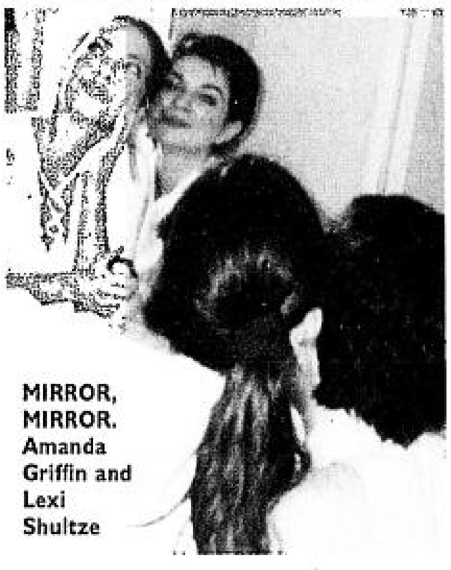


ECCENTRIC GLAM. Epy Quizon and Monique Guevarra

STYLEMEISTERS. Birthday boy Juan Miguel Ongsiako and Leica Carpo at Struan and Tang's

TO BE "U." Hot item and U image models Fitz Puyat and Nikki Revilla

WHITE NIGHT. Karen Borja with birthday gal Amanda Griffin



MIRROR, MIRROR. Amanda Griffin and Lexi Shultze

Beauty booty at PCX

Lora Gabol

THERE are three things I spend way too much time doing: taking a bath, talking on the phone, and browsing through shelves and shelves of beauty booty at pharmacies, department stores—anywhere you can find the stuff that keep your *kikay* kit in tiptop shape.

Something about being surrounded by an assortment of scents, colors, and textures bizarrely fascinates me, the thought of momentarily escaping the world of pollution and free radicals turning into an intoxicating thrill for the senses. It's also an incidental science and technology lesson, really— some of the biggest breakthroughs in recent history have been patented by cosmetic giants Estee Lauder and Lancome, after all. Talk about beauty and brains.

Thank God more and more "beauty havens" are sprouting around congested malls in Manila. A temporary refuge to soothe fatigued bodies and minds, these glamorized health and beauty shops offer more than your ordinary soap and shampoo. Catering to the needs of the highly demanding lifestyles modern beauty addicts lead, Personal Care Exchange (PCX to regular patrons) is a one-stop shop—all the essentials (and yeah, those "unnecessary" indulgences every girl must enjoy once in a while) under one roof.

Offering popular brands such as Maybelline, L'oreal, Revlon, ZA New York, St. Ives, Nivea, Freeman, Sally Hansen, among others, PCX is easily a favorite of the *kikay* crowd for the shopping rarity of convenience and quality in one store. Even more, PCX exclusively distributes Japanese brands Naris and Chifure, most products mixing cutesy Jap culture with high-tech beauty, quite a saleable mix to the Filipino market.

Unlike other foreign labels, these items do not require blowing half your allowance so you can stock up on these skin care and make-up finds without the guilt. Without further ado, here are my picks from PCX:

Natum Face Masks (P275). Every skin care regimen should include a weekly facial mask to draw out impurities, retain moisture, and improve circulation. These days when regular visits to the spa for facials cost too much money and time, a good facial mask is all you need for a quick yet effective pampering experience for your skin. Find one suited to skin's specific needs and say hello to a better complexion with regular use. Available in three variants: Aqua moist pack with moisturizing benefits to keep skin supple and dewy; Fruit clear pack with alpha hydroxy acids to help renew and brighten skin; and Herb Clay pack that exfoliates and sops up excess oil an grime deep within your pores.

Naris Natural Pack (P155). If you wish for a more natural approach to face masks, these affordable peel-off varieties from Naris are your best bet. Pack A has eggshell extract and collagen to remove sebum that has gotten comfy in your pores, smoothen skin, and improve elasticity. Pack B has Honey and Vitamin E that moisturizes and refines skin texture, while acting as an antioxidant and improving skin metabolism. Pack C with Algae extract and salt improves skin tone, firms facial contours and acts as an astringent.

AQA Eye and Lip tube make-up (P255). Versatile color for eyes and lips. These tiny tubes are cosmetic wonders you can do practically anything with and fit wonderfully into your teeniest purse. In wearable colors that flatter Asian skin such as Lavender, Gold, Honey, Silver and Olive, the Squalene and Vitamin E-rich cream is a cinch to blend and is perfect for make-up beginners for its practically nonexistent goof factor.

Piet Face Conscious Powder (P495). This ultra-fine powder fills in pores for a smoother look as it keeps face matte and halts overactive oil production. What's more, these compacts do not just come in various shades of beige and ivory. The Lavender shade counteracts dullness; Coral to flatter tanned skin; Cream to neutralize redness; and Lucent for the most natural effect. I've discovered that this baby also has Green Tea, a powerful antioxidant to protect skin from sun damage and pollution. This is what you call the compact with a conscience.

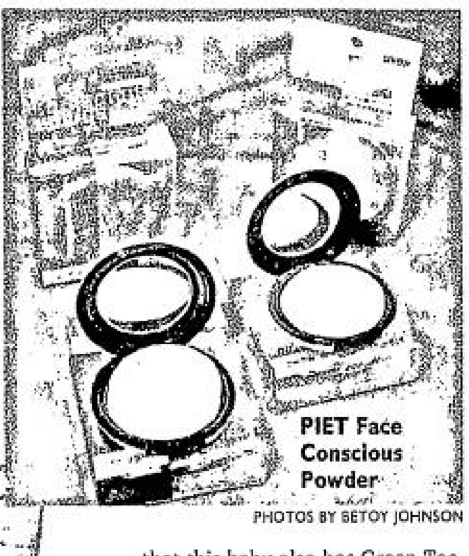
Non-Oilia Oil Off Mist (P255). The high-tech counterpart of good old Evian, Non-Oilia Oil Off mist refreshes the face with Lemon Extract and Aloe while mattifying with a light powder ingeniously infused into the liquid. You need not take out your compact for touch-ups; it takes just a few spritzes of this Japanese innovation to get you fresh and ready to face the world (or your crush). Also with Sponge Gourd extract, an anti-inflammatory agent to put a stop to bumps on their way to monster zit-dom.

Body Good Foot Wash (P355). It goes without saying that your feet deserve just as much attention as the rest of your body, if not more. Your tortured tootsies will love you after a treat from Body Good Foot Wash, a mild scrub that comes with a brush to soften tough skin and moisturize the most neglected nooks and crannies of your toes.

Parasola Cool Fresh Sunscreen (P395). To the ones who can't live without sun protection but are too lazy to slather on the SPF on a regular basis, this spray-on sunscreen is PCX's gift to you. With a high factor of 30, this cooling gel makes you forget the warm, sticky sensation of having sun block on. Why not grab **Parasola Super Cool After-sun Gel** while you're at it? After a long day under the sun, this tingly gel will surely relax you into bliss.

PCX also carries its own range of beauty tools (sponges, make-up brushes) that are sold at pocket-friendly prices (P49-P119).

I could go on and on naming the virtues of the many toiletries and cosmetics waiting for you at PCX. I say visit the nearest Personal Care Exchange branch and experience the thrill of finding the perfect prods for your face and body. Just a warning, though: Do not spend more than an hour sampling and poking on merchandise, especially if you do not intend to buy anything. The evil eye the sales lady is bound to throw your way after following you around, not to mention sucking up to you, is the stuff nightmares are made of, trust me.



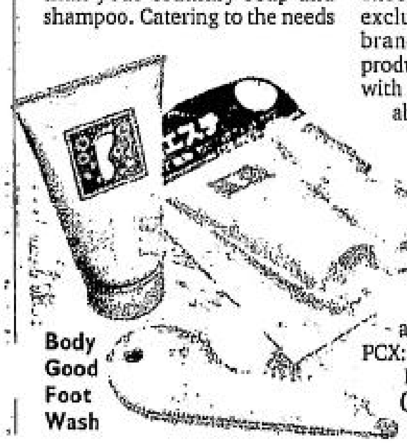
PIET Face Conscious Powder

PHOTOS BY SETOY JOHNSON

Parasola
34

PARASOLA Cool Fresh Sunscreen

NON-OILIA Oil Off Mist

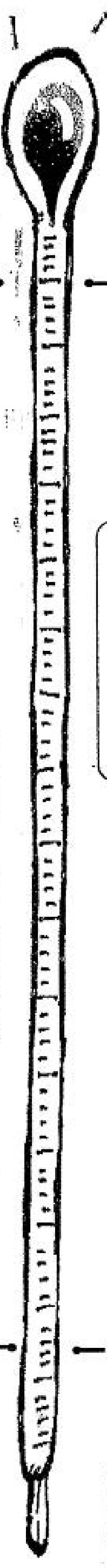


Body Good Foot Wash

NATUM Face Masks

2BU! THERMOMETER

'Smallville' hotties are hot; Christina Aguilera's so hot, she makes you throw up



"SIX Feet Under." We've always loved all of HBO's Original Series, and this is no exception! A "dramedy" that revolves around the lives of people whose lives revolve around the dead (follow us here!), "Six Feet Under" will surely have use reserving the couch on Tuesday (and Saturday, for a second round) nights!

SAFARI is a chocolate-covered wafer and rice crispies delight with a very light coconut-y taste. The best thing about it? A whole bar costs only P6 to P7.

WE drove through **Carl's Jr.** on E. Rodriguez Street and ordered chilidogs, fries, onion rings and lots of ranch dressing. Big mistake. Their ranch dressing was rancid, completely unlike what other branches usually served. No doubt about it, it was majorly spoiled. That was enough to make us lose our appetite.

AXN's "Get A Life" ad series. If all commercials were like that, the world would be a happier place.

"SMALLVILLE." Teens like it because of the hotties, oldies like it because it's all about Superman.

NEW DVD releases for the pre-holiday season. "The Lord of the Rings" platinum box edition, "Ice Age," "Monsters, Inc"...you know—what we're posting on our Amazon.com wishlists!

CRISTINA Barcelona, the very cheerful, perky guard at the Glorietta 4 entrance, gives our trips to the mall a good start. She doesn't just mumble her "Good morning" and "Hi." She greets us with a wide smile. *Sana lahat sila ganyan.*

ALL these bombings. We're now fighting a different war that we will never win.

CHRISTINA Aguilera's makeover. You could have made a tasteful transformation, you know.

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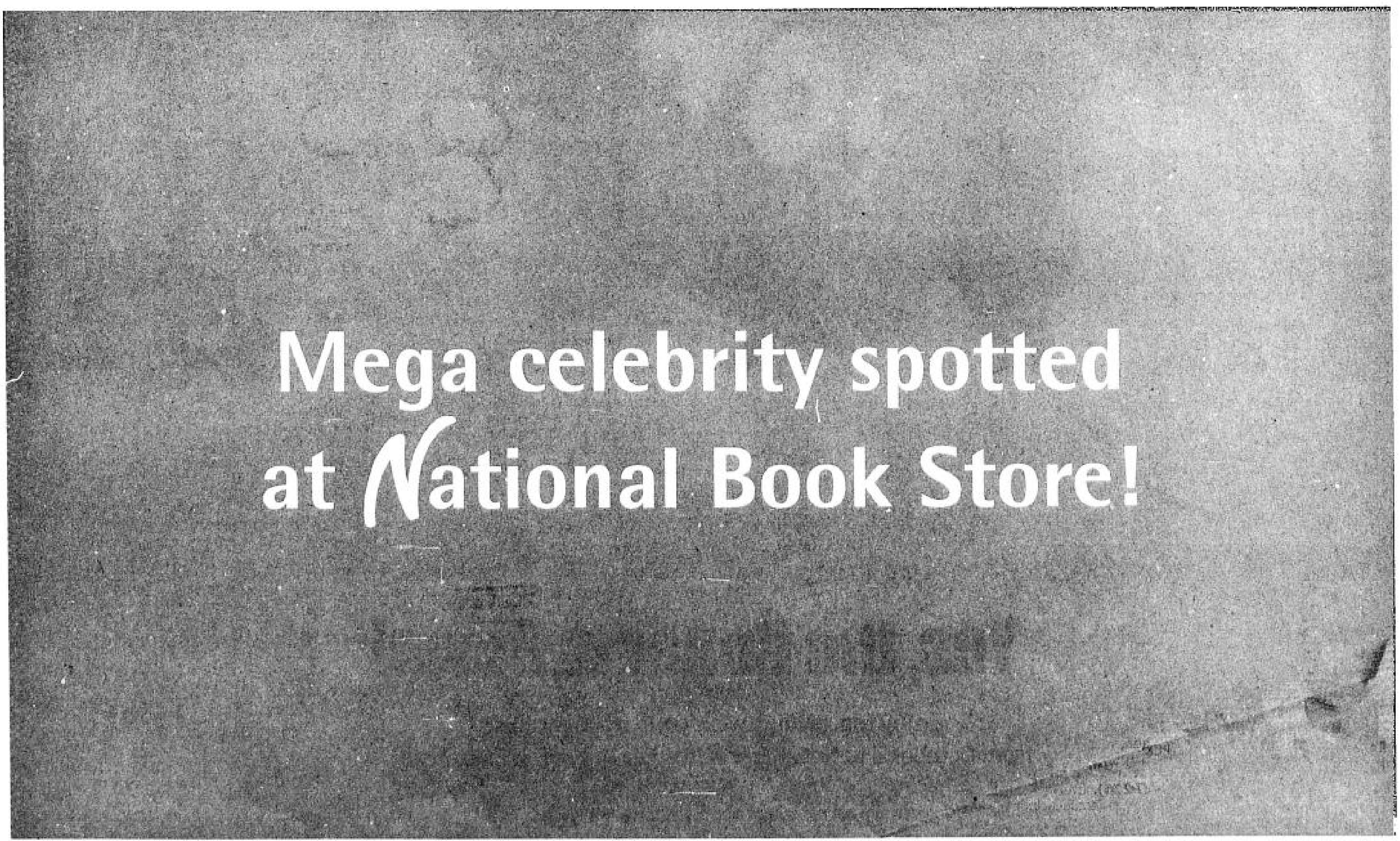
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Why can't people make 'tanggap' my Tag-lish?

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

Many people make fun of me because of what I am. But aren't we supposed to be natural and honest? I mean, you would think that the *masa* has had enough of shampoo slogans by now. Like, being *hiyang* should be second nature to everyone. How I look, how I talk—it's not like I make *mura*. Not *naman, eh*. I mean, I just want to be understood by everyone, *'di ba? Parang*, they think they're the only ones who can mix up their words. They keep on calling me so c_ _o *daw*—it's like, they're discriminating against me because of how I speak.

Doesn't the common *tao* want to be part of mainstream civilization? I mean, how the heck am I gonna tell my driver to wait for me, and just make *ikot na lang* until I come out of the parlor? He might get me wrong and leave me there. What am I gonna do? Take a jeep and say, "*Manong, pa*-stop *naman sa* may Express Teller *para maka*-get *ako ng pera para sa'yo, o*"?

VALLE GIRL

I must admit, girl, that people can be mean when treating others they can't understand. I'm often branded that way, too, from first impression. Later on, I think, I prove to others that I'm more of a cowboy than a sheep.

Come to think of it, the instances that force me to be bilingual in one breath are those occasions when I begin to speak in the common tongue (Filipino), and have a particularly difficult time finding the right word in Filipino. But in that respect, even the most common of the common *tao* is just as c_ _*o* as you, me and the guests on Kris Aquino's show.

There are many instances where there is seemingly a need to use a mix of languages. Here are a few:

● Legalese

C_ _o cop: *Pakita nga ng lisensya mo*. No left turn *ka do'n a*.

C_ _o motorist: *Naku naman, tsip*, sorry boss! *Namber* two *na namber* two *na kasi ako, eh*.

Cop: *Ganito na lang, wa*-warning-*an na lang kita. Wala ka bang pampalamig d'yan?*

● Relationships

C_ _o girl: *Bri-neak niya ako, noh. Ngayon-ngayon lang*.

C_ _o guy: *Okey nga 'yon, eh. Pwede na tayo mag*-beach.

Girl: *Hoy, ano ka ba?* Hurt *na nga ako, eh, pa*-beach-beach *ka pa... Saan bang* beach *'yan?*

● Sports

Commentator 1: *Naku*, last two minutes *na po tayo, e payb paols na po 'yung* star player *ng koponan ng* Pilipinas.

Commentator 2: *O, eto, ja-jambol na tayo...*

Commentator 1: *Mabuti pong nandito tayo para sa* SEAGames *sa* Busan. *Ramdam na ramdam nyo po sana ang* national pride *namin lahat dito...*

So, all in all, what's a guy to do? If he speaks in straight English, he is branded a snob. If he mixes up his languages, then he's c_ _*otic*. If he studies Tagalog and uses the old vocabulary, he's a moron because no one understands him.

By the way, go to Sanctum for Duets Night today and watch Overtone, Spires, CherryDawn and the Angst-Ridden Bastards perform live.

Some cover, mostly consumable.

Copiously yours,
CALOY

It's easy to understand why the people who dislike you for the way you talk feel the way they do. You sound annoying even on paper, mixing English and Filipino—and not even good English and Filipino at that. It's one thing to mix the two languages within a sentence for convenience—for example, the situations that Caloy mentioned.

If you can't find the right English or Filipino word, no one's preventing you from borrowing a word from another language, just as long as you make yourself understood. It's another thing, however, to not even try to improve your linguistic abilities and to continue saying, "make *ikot*" or "make *sundo*," or other similar expressions.

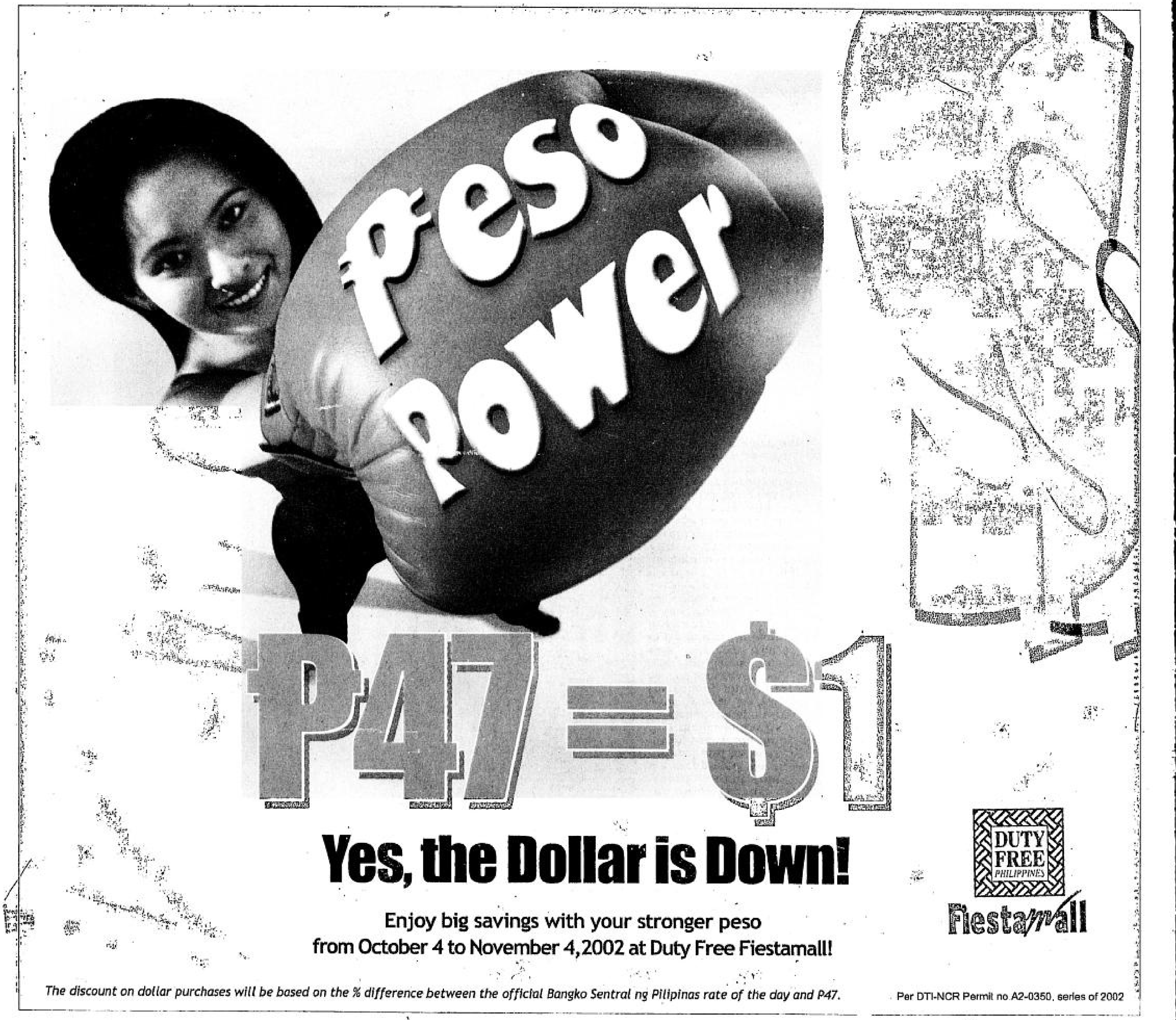
You have a driver and a credit card. With such conveniences at your disposal, can't you find the time and summon the effort to look up the right English or Filipino terms for daily conversations?

I don't think that being bilingual is c_ _*otic*. After all, it's difficult to be a purist at a time when everyone is aiming to be more globalized, even if only through languages. And it has been to our advantage that most of us can speak more than one language. But being bilingual is certainly different from being an idiot, and a *maarte* idiot at that.

I'm sorry but I can't feel sympathy for the discrimination you suffer. You think that your problem is about people not accepting the real you. I think that the problem is your IQ.

Miscommunication between us has occurred on more than one level already.

SEP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